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# THE TIMES



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## Businesses line up against the euro

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

A MULTIMILLION pound campaign to persuade voters to block British membership of the European single currency will be launched today by the leaders of a hundred blue-chip companies.

A £1 million fighting fund has been set up by the backers of "Business for Sterling", which is chaired by the former Labour Cabinet minister Lord Marsh. The group, which has deliberately excluded MPs from its membership, will become the focus of the "save the pound" movement in the referendum on whether Britain should adopt the euro.

Backers include some surprise names. Sir Emmanuel Kaye, who contributed thousands of pounds to the blind trusts which ran Tony Blair and Gordon Brown's office in opposition, is a founder member.

Other leading figures include Lord Hanson; Brian Prime of the Federation of Small Businesses; Jonathan Fry, chairman of Burmah Castrol; the Lomrha chairman Sir John Craven; Sir Stanley Kalms of Dixons; Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors; and the economist Professor Tim Congdon.

Supporters of the single currency claimed last night, however, that a majority of businesses backed the euro and suggested that the new group intended to base its campaign on "misinformation and fear".

Business for Sterling sets out its agenda today in a letter to *The Times*, signed by Lord Marsh and others, saying: "We write as businessmen to support a new campaign dedicated to setting out the business arguments against British participation in the European single currency. Like many other businessmen and women we believe that economic and

monetary union carries particular problems for Britain that are not shared by our European partners."

The group will hold its official launch at a London press conference today. Lord Marsh, a former Minister of Transport who went on to become chairman of British Rail and now sits on the crossbenches in the Lords, said last night: "Businesses for Sterling is unique in that it represents all sectors: retailers, financiers, manufacturers, large and small companies. I am delighted that, in a very short space of time, we have managed to amass a huge number of supporters."

Business for Sterling will have a London headquarters with a full-time campaign manager to be named soon. "It is our intention that a national campaign on the vast and sophisticated scale we are planning will succeed in persuading the British people to vote against a single currency whenever that vote takes place," Lord Marsh added.

Lord Hanson, one of Britain's most prominent businessmen, said: "To rush into a single currency would be foolhardy for many reasons hitherto not made sufficiently known."

"Up to now the talk from the diehards has been about how we cannot afford to stay out with no real reason given. The British people, the voters, have been deliberately left unaware of the facts. We have the strongest currency and economy in Europe. Why risk sacrificing it for a dream which may not work?"

The former Tory Cabinet ministers Norman Lamont, Lord Young of Graffham, and Sir John Nott are also members of the group.

Letters, page 25



Scotland fans in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow watching John Collins's penalty goal against Brazil

## Scotland stops work to watch as Brazilians steal a victory

By John Goodbody and Adrian Lee

SCOTLAND came to a standstill yesterday as the sixteenth World Cup began, predictably, with heart-breaking defeat against the favourites Brazil.

The champions needed an own goal to secure a 2-1 victory, continuing Scotland's run of bad luck and poor results in tournaments stretching back to 1954. An estimated worldwide television audience of more than one billion watched Scotland, who have never qualified for the second round, equalise an early goal with a 38th-minute penalty by the Monaco player, John Collins.

Thousands of Scottish fans crammed into Parisian bars and mingled outside the 80,000-seat Stade de France as black-market tickets for the sell-out match exchanged hands for up to £1,500.

In Scotland, town and city centres were deserted by mid-afternoon as thousands of workers went home early for the 4.30pm kick-off. The nation groaned as Brazil clinched victory when the ball rebounded from the Scotland defender Tom Boyd's arm into his own net past his goalkeeper Jim Leighton, 39, the oldest player in the tournament.

In Brazil an explosion of fireworks launched from dozens of Rio de Janeiro's hilltop shanty-towns lit up the skies in celebration of victory. Millions of Brazilians dressed in green and yellow vented their passion for the game by spilling out into the streets and squares to begin carnival-style celebrations.

"Brazil has shown it again - we will now party till we bring home the Cup," said a delirious fan who was among thousands who crowded into a central square and danced to samba tunes.

Scotland won praise for a courageous display and the Tartan Army was not dispirited as it poured out of the ground in Paris.



"Well, it was your idea to get married in June..."

Craig Brown, the manager, said his side had given away two "shocking" goals. He admitted that Brazil were the better side but said: "We had a great chance not to lose."

The first goal of the World Cup flew into the net off the shoulder of Cesar Sampaio in the fourth minute, from a corner. Scotland must now seek wins against Norway and Morocco, the other two countries in their group, in order to reach the last 16.

Before the game, Scottish fans swapped their ginger wigs and sporrans for yellow and green Brazilian shirts and scarves in a colourful and friendly opening to the five week event. The bagpipes of the Scottish fans were met by whistles, drums and trumpets of the Brazilians.

At home, it was estimated that one in five of the workforce was allowed the day off.

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## Sir David English dies at 67

SIR DAVID ENGLISH, 67, former Editor of the *Daily Mail*, and one of the most influential figures in British journalism died yesterday.

Sir David was found on Tuesday by his driver after apparently suffering a stroke while shaving. He played a significant role in the rise of Margaret Thatcher and espoused "family values" before the phrase had been invented.

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## Doctor in mercy-killing row is charged with murder

By Paul Wilkinson

A FAMILY doctor at the centre of a mercy-killing controversy has been accused of murdering an elderly cancer patient.

David Moor, 51, who retired earlier this year from his practice on Tyneside, has been charged with killing George Liddell, 85, a former ambulance man, last July.

The cause of Liddell's death according to the certificate signed by Dr Moor was carcinoma, cancer spread throughout the body, and bowel cancer. But after Dr Moor claimed in newspaper interviews to helping up to 150 patients die in the past 30 years, Liddell's cremation on July 24 five days after his death, was halted by Leonard Coyle, the Newcastle upon Tyne Coroner.

The doctor had spoken out in support of a fellow GP, Dr Michael Irwin, who was the subject of a *Sunday Times* article after he admitted assist-



George Liddell, left, and Dr Moor, accused of murder

ing at least 50 patients to end their lives.

Dr Moor said the last patient he had "helped" was a bowel cancer victim who had been "slowly dying" for the past three months.

Dr Moor had been at Liddell's bedside with the patient's daughter, Doreen, and her husband Tom, a 65-year-old BT engineer, when he died. However he insisted he



had only administered pain relief and not a lethal dose. The family has since moved to Ireland.

The coroner ordered tests for drugs on Liddell's body and Northumbria police launched an inquiry. Last November Dr Moor spent almost six hours being interviewed by detectives and a file was sent to the Crown Prosecution Service.

A spokeswoman for Northumbria police said last night: "Following a Northumbria police investigation into the death of George Liddell of Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne, on July 19 1997, Dr John David Moor has today been summonsed to appear before Newcastle magistrates Court at 2.15pm on Thursday July 30 1998 to answer a charge of murder."

Dr Moor, who looked after 3,500 patients at his Fenham surgery, retired to his smallholding at Stamfordham, Northumberland, last March. Yesterday as he fed his goats and horses he declined to comment on the police charges, referring press inquiries to the Medical Defence Union.

A statement issued by the union read: "Dr Moor was summonsed to appear at court in July to answer to a charge of murder in relation to one of his patients. The matter is now sub judice."

## EU to lift ban on British beef

The stage is set for the effective end of the worldwide ban on exports of British beef. The European Commission has proclaimed that younger meat is safe from "mad cow" disease and has called on European Union states to allow sales to resume. Page 15

## Race murder

America is facing the gruesome shadow of its racist past after three men with suspected ties to the Ku Klux Klan were charged with chaining a disabled black man to a pickup truck and dragging him for two miles along a road in east Texas. Page 18

## Archer doubts

The former newspaper editor, Sir Nicholas Lloyd, has raised serious doubts about the account given by Lord Archer of his involvement in a share deal involving Anglia Television that became the subject of an insider trading inquiry. Page 2

## Boy Mafia victim and the gift of yet another life

From John Phillips in Rome

A YOUNG woman whose life was saved when she received the transplanted liver of a seven-year-old British boy murdered by the Mafia has given birth "miraculously" to a boy, doctors in Rome said yesterday. They believe that she is one of only three women in the world to have a baby after such a transplant.

Maria Pia Pedaldi Bettino has named the child in memory of the boy who gave her life. "We believe this was a gift from Nicholas in heaven, so we decided to give our son the same name," said.

Nicholas Green from Acrrington, Lancashire, was shot and killed in a motorway ambush while on holiday in

Calabria in September 1994. His parents, Margaret and Reginald, a former *Times* journalist, wanted his organs to be used to save other lives, and seven transplants were carried out.

Signora Bettino, 24, had been in a hepatic coma when she received the boy's liver. Eleven months later she was well enough to marry Salvatore Bettino, 32, and on May 28, their 9oz son was born after a "serene pregnancy".

"This little angel allowed me to live again," Signora Bettino said. "This *dimbo* is a miracle. He is a gift from Nicholas from up there. He will be called Nicholas Gentile and he will be baptised with a great popular *festa* in the church where we were married. I hope that dear

Reginald and Margaret, who have followed my confinement with great trepidation and involvement, will be beside me. I consider them to be part of my family."

Dr Maria Luisa Framarino said: "When the little one began to scream and kick his legs we breathed sighs of relief and couldn't stop crying. Doctors are supposed to be cool and professional. But when we come into contact with miracles we find ourselves asking questions about the mystery of life."

The birth came a week before two men were jailed for murdering Nicholas. Michele Jannello, 29, and Francesco Mesiano, 24, were cleared of the killing, but the prosecution appealed and they were convicted on Friday.



Nicholas Green: killed in Mafia ambush

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# Burly blokes in girly skirts kick up storm

Let the carnival begin, reports Damian Whitworth

THEY came in their tens of thousands from the Amazon basin to Aberdeen to celebrate the start of the World Cup with a Highland reel backed by a samba beat. Some wept when they couldn't get tickets and were comforted by the realists who had come along simply to be part of an extraordinary carnival.

Whatever might happen during the next month, the opening match kicked off amid an atmosphere that the organisers of this mammoth tournament could only have dreamt of. Two countries that love to party competed with each other for exuberance, noisiness and downright good-natured silliness.

A sea of Brazilian gold and Scottish tartan washed around the Stade de France for most of yesterday and by the end so many had swapped colours that it was sometimes difficult to determine who was Latin and who Celtic.

There were some tell-tale signs though. While ginger wigs and sporrans were tried by game members of the South American contingent, the kilts mostly stayed wrapped around Scots, albeit often only barely. The stadium concourse is dotted with huge ventilation grilles and many burly fans were surprised to find their skirts blowing up above their waists. The effect was less becoming than when Marilyn Monroe tried it, but it soon became a popular game. As the afternoon wore on some

were showing what they had underneath to anyone brave enough to look.

The Brazilian response to this treat was a chorus of "miniskirt is girly, miniskirt is girly". The Scotsmen started to gyrate all the more enthusiastically. The Brazilians decided that whatever the opposition was flapping they could do better and unfurled a 40ft flag that billowed high as they danced round the stalls.

And of course their characters were as outlandish as anything in tartan. There was a man dressed as a nun in a brilliant, shimmering yellow habit, a huge, ancient fellow in a gold lamé dress and equally dazzling wig and make-up; and a whole troop with what appeared to be pumpkins on their heads. And all danced and ululated to the din of drums, whistles, horns, trumpets and tambourines.

The Scots sang all their favourite songs - including, rather confusingly about going to Wem-ber-ley - but

Air France struck a last-minute peace deal with pilots yesterday, ten days into a strike that seriously disrupted air travel ahead of the World Cup. After all-night talks, the SNPL, the largest pilots' union, and Air France management reached an agreement that should see full service restored from Friday.

seemed to have been completely out-blinded until a curious wailing started up. The Brazilians hushed as they came face to face with a bagpipe quartet. After some initial unharmonious competition the drummers found a fast samba beat that was strangely compatible with the hurrying jig.

Thousands were without tickets. Many of them were Brazilians who had flown halfway round the world. Fernando Marcondes from São Paulo said he was among 2,000 of his countrymen who had paid £3,000 to a Spanish agency only to arrive and find that their tickets did not exist. Orlando Marquese, 56, was in tears having flown out without even a promise of a ticket. "I would be prepared to pay six hundred dollars but I can't afford these prices." Touts were offering tickets for £1,200.

Those who couldn't get into the ground headed for the big television screens. The reaction ground next to the stadium was declared full as fans still queued to get in after the match had started. The several thousand inside were busy putting their disappointment behind them. "For us it is the greatest event, it was still worth coming all this way," said Simone Luna, 23, from northeast Brazil. "We will still have a party."

Magnus Linklater and  
Diary, page 24  
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Playing their joker on the match against Scotland: Brazilian fans get in the party mood. Those who had no tickets were equally exuberant

# Nine arrested in fighting before match

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ONE Scottish football fan was sexually molested, another was stabbed and nine French youths were arrested outside the Stade de France for fighting with Scottish supporters before yesterday's Scotland-Brazil match.

No Scotland fans were arrested but four were in custody after incidents elsewhere in Paris. French police claimed that one of the Scotsmen arrested was a "known hooligan leader".

The French judicial police are investigating claims that a Scottish fan

was sexually attacked in central Paris. The man, who has not been identified, claimed he was approached by two men and offered drugs.

He said that when he refused, he was attacked by one of the men and sexually assaulted by the other. The Scotsman was found unconscious by a taxi driver and taken to the nearest police station.

Another visiting fan was stabbed several times in an attack in the Saint Michel district of central Paris. He was operated on at the Hôpital Pitié-Salpêtrière, according to French news

reports. Twenty-five youths from the depressed suburbs around the Stade de France were arrested before kick-off in the Scotland game yesterday, after a night in which dozens of youths of North African origin clashed with police in central Paris.

Twelve were arrested for suspected pick-pocketing, and nine for fighting Scottish supporters. Two more were arrested for allegedly carrying arms, one for drugs offences and another for receiving stolen goods.

On Tuesday night, after the opening ceremony, several riot police were

injured and dozens of people were arrested after clashes between police and youths of North African origin on the Champs-Élysées. Fifteen were still in custody last night. Police blamed "delinquents from the suburbs".

Two supporters from Aberdeen were arrested nearby some hours later in what the Foreign Office said was an "unrelated incident".

Two more Scotsmen were arrested near the foot of the Eiffel Tower, after they allegedly hit a passer-by, a 46-year-old Frenchman, when he declined to join them in a drink.

# Scotland turns off and tunes in to the big one

By Gillian Harris, Scotland Correspondent

BY 4PM the streets of Glasgow were deserted, save for the odd stallholder hoping for a last-minute sale of tartan trinkets or ginger wigs.

There was a similar, eerie quiet across the rest of Scotland as the country ground to a halt and settled down to watch the opening match of the World Cup.

Employers wondered aloud at the flu epidemic that appeared to have struck entire workforces. Meanwhile, staff sneaked out of their "sick beds" and headed for the pubs with widescreen televisions.

Many firms entered into the spirit of the day. According to the Institute of Personnel and Development, 20 per cent of the workforce was given the day off. Others were allowed to watch television during the crucial 90 minutes. The Scottish Office ran a skeleton service after 4pm so that the

majority of its 5,000 staff could watch the game.

Elsewhere, workers on flexitime left the office at lunchtime. Offshore oil workers were allowed to juggle their shifts while soldiers in the Argyll and King's Own Scottish Borderers were given permission to watch television from 4pm. At RAF bases, Scots swapped shifts with their English counterparts on the understanding the favour would be returned on Monday, when England play Tunisia.

Bank staff and sales assistants were among the unlucky ones who had to stay at work. "It's unfortunate that we can't shut early, but we're not very busy," said one teller at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh.

At 4.30pm, as the match got under way at the Stade de France, the Tartan Army's

"Home Guard" was ankle-deep in mud as they braved a downpour in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. Billed as the largest gathering of Scotland supporters outside Paris, the event was expected to attract 20,000 fans. In the event, the wet weather meant that an estimated 3,500 turned up.

Armed with Saltires, acres of tartan and a forest of umbrellas, the fans converged on the park to watch the game on a giant screen. Women and children in plastic macs joined the throng of men in T-shirts and nylon wigs who seemed oblivious to the rain.

Before the match the mood was defiantly optimistic. Armchair experts spoke confidently of a draw. "Nil-nil," predicted Tommy McDougal, 32, an electrician from Paisley. "Same as in 1974."

When the team walked out into the Paris sunshine, the soaking crowd cheered themselves hoarse. Four minutes into the game, when Brazil scored the opening goal, the fans began to worry.

"I don't know why I put myself through this," said David Ackroyd, 43, from Glasgow, as he shook the rain from his tartan bonnet. "It's exhausting. But I wouldn't want to miss Scotland playing in the opening game of a World Cup. It's a great day."

The 2-1 defeat left supporters dejected, but not terminally so. "There are still two games left to play," said Diane Stewart, 23, from Uddingston, Lanarkshire. "Scotland is not beaten yet."



Face paint cannot hide the Scots' grim expressions

# Jury sent off early for match

By Simon de Bruxelles

A JURY was allowed to end its deliberations early yesterday so that its members could get home for the first game of the World Cup. Mr Justice Butterfield told the ten women and two men hearing a case at Truro Crown Court that he did not want them rushing their verdict and sent them home at 3.50pm to give them time to get home for the 4.30 kick-off.

David Gorman, of Brentwood, Essex, has been on trial for ten charges, which he denies, including rape. On Monday the judge asked the jurors if any of them were interested in yesterday's fixture. At least one indicated a wish to see the match. The judge then said that it would be unfair to the defendant if they felt any pressure to hurry.

# Collymore dumped after attack in bar

By Richard Duce

FOR A professional footballer the public apology was grovelling, but for Ulrika Jonsson there could be no excusing the violent attack she bore at the hands of her wayward lover, Stan Collymore.

The assault by Collymore in a Paris bar as World Cup preparations neared their end was still too painful for the television presenter to talk about yesterday. Instead she confirmed through her agent that an on-off romance, which had previously intrigued tabloid gossip columnists, was now over.

Barely a month ago she had announced that she was supporting Collymore, 27, after he had been cleared of an alleged attack on Michelle Green, a former girlfriend and mother of his child. The footballer still faces

possible censure from his Premiership club, Aston Villa, which invested £7 million in his sporadic talents. He was signed from Liverpool but failed to live up to expectations last season. A club spokesman said Villa were "disappointed" to hear of the incident.

Earlier yesterday Jonsson, 30, a former breakfast television weather presenter and now star of shows such as *Gladiators* and *Shooting Stars*, issued a simple statement saying: "I would like everyone to know that I am fine and I confirm that my relationship with Stan Collymore is over."

For his part, Collymore had issued a very public apology about the incident at the Auld Alliance bar on Tuesday. Witnesses described how he tried to make Jonsson leave and then aimed kicks at her when she refused.

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# PALMIST JANE LEVY USES HER RIGHT HAND TO PREDICT HER BUSINESS FUTURE.

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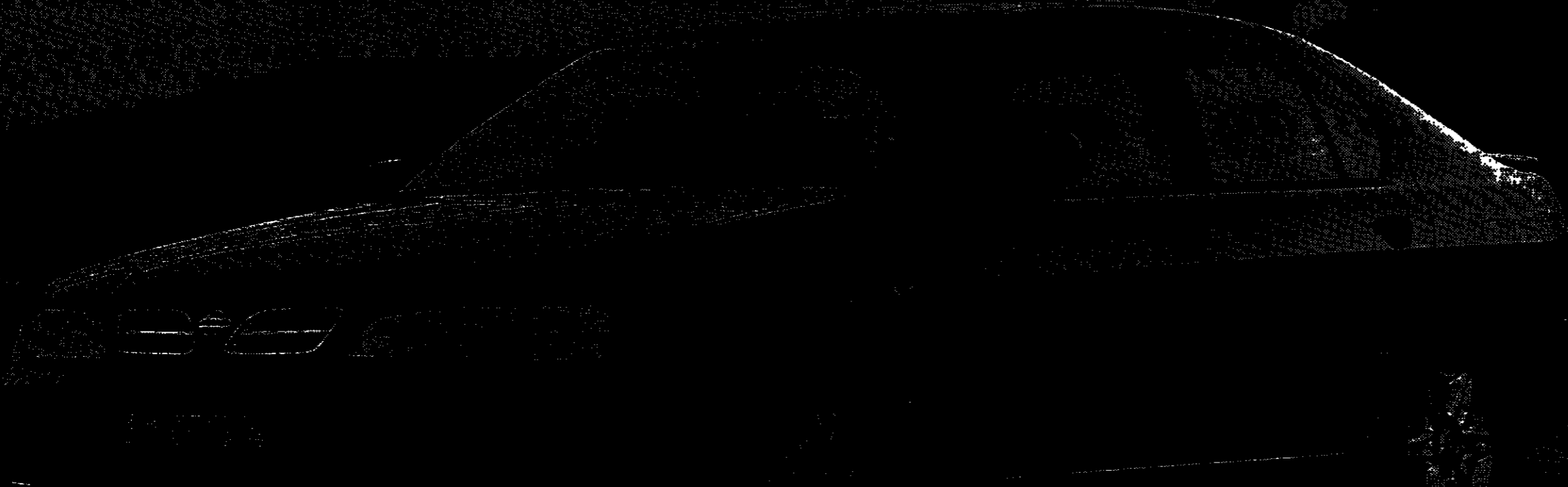
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# Crash 20-year

Peter Foster reports

THE man who saved Richard Branson's life died after a borrowed parachute failed to open properly as he trained for another round-the-world balloon attempt, an inquest was told yesterday.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded on Alex Ritchie, 53, a mechanical engineer of Marnham, Essex, who was using a 20-year-old parachute from a Mustang training base for the jump in January. Severely injured when he landed, he died almost three months later in a London hospital from liver, lung and kidney failure with his estranged wife, Gill, and girlfriend, Caroline, by his bedside.

In January the previous year Mr Ritchie had climbed barefoot onto the outside of the Virgin Global Challenger balloon as it plummeted towards the mountains of Algeria and cut away two propane gas cylinders only moments before it would have crashed with Mr Branson and Per Lindstrand, the co-pilot, on-site. The balloon later landed safely.

Mr Branson yesterday paid warm tribute to Mr Ritchie, who worked on his balloon expeditions for more than ten years, and pledged to dedicate his next record attempt to him.

Mr Lindstrand, the balloon manufacturer, told Westminster Coroner's Court how he and Mr Ritchie and Steve

# Billie-Jo told of 'living in a nightmare'

SION JENKINS felt he was "living in a nightmare" after he found the body of Billie-Jo, his 13-year-old foster daughter, whom he is accused of murdering, a court was told yesterday.

In a statement to detectives he told how he credited the teenager's bathroom door to his hands as he waited for an ambulance.

The 44-page statement was read in the Leves Coroner's Court by Detective Constable Steven Hunt. Mr Jenkins said: "I felt like I was living in a nightmare. I just seemed to be such a wreck. I felt as if I was only there in body not in spirit."

Mr Jenkins, 40, denies murdering Billie-Jo with a racket ball spike at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex, on February 15 last year. He and his wife, Lois, a social worker, had fostered Billie-Jo for 4 1/2 years. They had been granted



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# Crash balloonist had 20-year-old parachute

Peter Foster reports on the inquest into the death of Branson's rescuer

THE man who saved Richard Branson's life died after a borrowed parachute failed to open properly as he trained for another round-the-world balloon attempt, an inquest was told yesterday.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded on Alex Ritchie, 53, a mechanical engineer of Manningtree, Essex, who was using a 20-year-old parachute from a Moroccan training base for the jump in January. Severely injured when he landed, he died almost three months later in a London hospital from liver, lung and kidney failure with his estranged wife, Jill, and girlfriend, Caroline, by his bedside.

In January the previous year Mr Ritchie had clambered onto the outside of the Virgin Global Challenger balloon as it plummeted towards the mountains of Algeria and cut away two propane gas cylinders only seconds before it would have crashed, with Mr Branson and Per Lindstrand, the co-pilot, inside. The balloon later landed safely.

Mr Branson yesterday paid warm tribute to Mr Ritchie, who worked on his balloon expeditions for more than ten years, and pledged to dedicate his next record attempt to him.

Mr Lindstrand, the balloon manufacturer, told Westminster Coroner's Court how he and Mr Ritchie and three

others had jumped from 12,000 feet while training at the Parachute Club Royale near Marrakesh, Morocco, on January 18.

Mr Lindstrand, who first jumped in 1983, said his friend had borrowed a parachute from the Moroccan club which was based on an early design from the 1950s: "It was one of the first 'flying wings'," he added, "which can be very sensitive in deployment."

Mr Lindstrand said that two other members of the party also experienced problems with their parachutes, all of which had been packed by the Moroccan staff at the club.

David Jackson, an aircraft engineer who was one of the group, told the court how the steering lines on his parachute had failed to deploy fully, sending him into a controlled spin and heavy landing in

which he injured his leg.

In an account read to the court, Mr Ritchie said before his death that the drogue, the part of the parachute which opens first and ensures the lines and canopy open in sequence, failed to come free.

He told Bruce Erickson, the site manager for the Virgin Team in Morocco: "I pulled the ripcord and the chute just sat there, the drogue was just sticking out. I was at about 4,000ft and in a controlled freefall. I tried to pull the drogue with one hand and it didn't come."

"I thought of cutting away and deploying the reserve chute but I was afraid of entanglement so I took both hands, grabbed the chute and pulled with everything I had, then I was tumbling. The next thing I remember I was heading towards the olive orchard

so I steered away from it as I didn't want to end up in a tree."

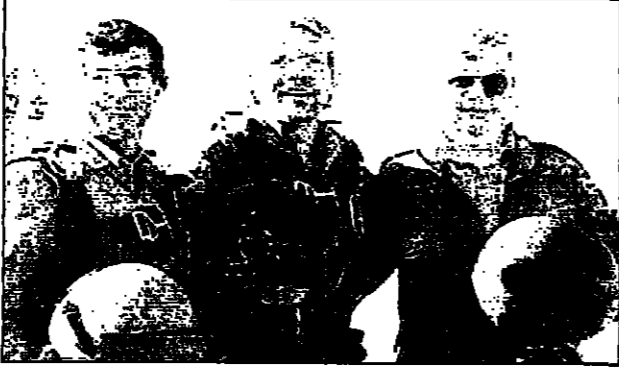
Mr Lindstrand told the coroner that he believed the opening of the parachute, which produced forces equivalent to 14G, had broken Mr Ritchie's pelvis and left him so dazed he was unable to stop himself landing on a concrete taxiway or use the steering toggles to soften the landing.

Mr Ritchie died from multiple organ failure on April 12.

Paul Knapman, the coroner, said: "This is a tragedy and it is a supreme irony that the person who spent his life double-checking met his death having put total reliance in others."

After the inquest, which was attended by Mrs Ritchie, Mr Lindstrand said he did not blame the Moroccan crew who had packed Mr Ritchie's parachute: "It was the first time we had a problem. I wouldn't hesitate to jump there again. When you expose yourself to a sport like parachuting, it's a risk. You live with the fact you pay for the excitement of parachuting."

Speaking from Paris, Mr Branson said: "Alex was one of the finest people I have ever met, and I miss him greatly. Not only was he a total professional, but he was a lovely person, both as a dad to his two sons and as one of the most witty and generous colleagues I have worked with."



Alex Ritchie, Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand



Jill Ritchie leaving the inquest. She was at her husband's bedside when he died

## Nursery children terrified of teacher

By Victoria Fletcher  
Education Correspondent

CHILDREN at a nursery school were so afraid of an aggressive teacher they would wet themselves rather than ask to go to the lavatory, a tribunal was told yesterday.

Sally Wallace, a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Harlesden, West London, was also accused of shouting at the children and demanding they lie down and go to sleep for hours on end.

The allegations came to light after a colleague of Miss Wallace's was sacked. Nerissa Webster, a black, unmarried mother of three, is suing the nursery school for unfair dismissal and race discrimination.

Miss Webster told the industrial tribunal at Woburn, Bedfordshire, that she had been shocked by Miss Wallace's treatment of the children, aged between three and five.

Miss Webster, who was sacked in 1996, had been employed by the school since 1994, after qualifying with a diploma in nursery nursing. However, after an Ofsted report was critical of the structure of the school, she and the another nurse had been dismissed.

The hearing continues.

## Billie-Jo's foster father told of 'living nightmare'

By Joanna Bale

SION JENKINS felt he was "living in a nightmare" after he found the body of Billie-Jo, his 13-year-old foster daughter, whom he is accused of murdering, a court was told yesterday.

In a statement to detectives he told how he cradled the teenager's battered head in his hands as he waited for an ambulance.

The 44-page statement was read to the Lewes Crown Court by Detective Constable Steven Hutt. Mr Jenkins said: "I felt like I was living in a nightmare. I just seemed to be such a wreck. I felt as if I was only there in body not in spirit."

Mr Jenkins, 40, denies bludgeoning Billie-Jo with a metal tent spike at the family home in Hastings, East Sussex, on February 15 last year. He and his wife, Lois, a social worker, had fostered Billie-Jo for 4½ years. They had been granted

permanent guardianship of Billie-Jo shortly before her death.

In his statement Mr Jenkins said: "I crouched down by Billie-Jo. I became aware that her forehead appeared to be different. I noticed a bubble from her nose and I believed that she was alive at that moment. I noticed that I had blood on my hands. I felt sick. I stood up and tried to shake the blood off my hands. My hand still had blood on it so I went to the downstairs toilet and washed it off."

Mr Jenkins, the headmaster designate of the William Parker School in Hastings, said Billie-Jo, and Annie and Lottie, two of his four daughters, had been keen to do odd-jobs to earn extra money. Billie-Jo had asked to paint the patio doors that afternoon, although there were problems with this particular chore. Mr Jenkins said: "Billie was

making quite a mess. She was quite an impatient girl but I wanted to give her a chance."

At one point he said as he was showing her how to paint, the teenager climbed on his shoulders and joked around. He then decided to buy white spirit to clear up the mess.

Mr Jenkins said as he was leaving the house she asked if she was painting properly. "I walked back over to her and cuddled her and said, 'Of course you are,'" he said.

The prosecution claim that as Lottie and Annie waited outside the house for Mr Jenkins, he picked up a metal tent spike and repeatedly bludgeoned her over the head.

He then, the prosecution claim, came up with an excuse for the white spirit in order to leave the murder scene. But in his statement, Jenkins claimed he had already told Annie of his plans to buy white spirit.

The trial continues.

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# Coma student given no hope refused to die

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

DOCTORS allowed an unconscious student to go for more than two months without food because they were convinced she was going to die.

Catherine Roberts's parents were told their daughter would never recover consciousness after suffering a brain haemorrhage. For months she remained unresponsive in a coma.

Then, the day before doctors intended to switch off her life-support machine, Miss Roberts's mother got a response when she told her daughter she loved her.

The former psychology student is now recovering at home with the help of a £100,000 out-of-court settlement from the NHS hospital that decided to let her die without food or liquids.

Miss Roberts, 26, was studying at Bath University when she collapsed in October 1992. After an emergency operation at the Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, her parents, Wendy and Frank Roberts, were told that she was unlikely to survive, and that, if she did, she would remain in a persistent vegetative state.

She was sent to a hospital near her home in Bournemouth, where doctors said

they expected her to die within days. But days turned into weeks as Mrs Roberts slept at her daughter's bedside, convinced that each day would be her last. "We accepted what the doctors told us. When they say your child is going to be a vegetable you don't think they can make a mistake."

When Miss Roberts's nasal

**When doctors say your child is a vegetable, you don't think they can make a mistake**

feeding tube fell out, doctors at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital decided to let nature take its course. Mrs Roberts, 53, said: "They said it would cause unnecessary suffering to replace it as she was going to die in a day or two anyway. But when she didn't they did not put it back."

After two months, the doctors advised stopping liquids

as well, which she had been receiving through an intravenous drip. Mrs Roberts began preparations for her daughter's funeral.

She said: "The vicar came to see us and we told him what hymns we wanted. Her best friend came back from Russia to read a poem. We reserved a plot at the cemetery."

"The next week they said they were going to take her breathing tube out. The day before they were going to remove the tube I thought there was something different about her. Then I saw her open her eyes and blink. I said, 'If you can hear me Catherine, blink,' and she blinked."

"I told her that if she could understand me to poke her tongue out. She did and then I told her I loved her. When she mouthed it back my heart leapt."

Miss Roberts's progress has been slow but steady. She has begun to talk and, although still severely handicapped and confined to a wheelchair, is studying for an Open University degree.

Her solicitor, Alison McLure, of the medical legal specialists Blake Laphorn, said: "The action was against



Wendy Roberts and her daughter, Catherine, who is now studying for an Open University degree, despite being severely handicapped

the Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital NHS Trust for negligence. They failed to come to a proper diagnosis, and they failed to provide Catherine with the proper care that she required. "When the initial expectation that she would die within two or three days was not

fulfilled a proper diagnosis should have been carried out. Catherine should also have received physiotherapy during the time that she was unconscious."

Mrs Roberts, a former clerical assistant, and her husband, a BT commercial officer, both took early retire-

ment to care for their daughter. Mrs Roberts said: "The money Catherine received will be a huge help towards looking after her, but it was not just about money. It would have been nice if someone was prepared to say, 'Sorry, we made a mistake,' but that has not happened and I

don't expect it will now. "I can't bear to think what would have happened if she hadn't blinked that day. Catherine is an amazing girl. She nearly died of starvation and thirst but she has never given up and is still fighting to get better. It's all down to her bravery and determination

that she is still here today." A spokesman for the hospital trust said: "The trust is pleased this complex and difficult case has been settled. The result is to the satisfaction of all parties in conjunction with the NHS Litigation Authority and the Frenchay Health Care NHS Trust in Bristol."

# Medic tells of failure to help anaesthetic girl

By MARK HENDERSON

A SENIOR paramedic called to help a ten-year-old girl who had suffered heart failure under general anaesthetic for dental surgery was amazed at the lack of effort being made to save her, the General Medical Council was told yesterday.

David Whiting was surprised no one was giving emergency treatment to Kate Dougal when he arrived to treat her, he told the council's professional conduct committee.

Tapas Basu, the anaesthetist in charge of Kate's operation, denies serious professional misconduct. He is alleged to have failed to use important equipment while anaesthetising the girl, to have breached three sets of professional guidelines and to have made inadequate efforts to resuscitate her.

Mr Whiting, who was manager of South Derbyshire emergency paramedic services at the time of Kate's death in January 1996, was called to the dental surgery at Long Eaton after Kate's heart stopped under anaesthetic.

He found Dr Basu ventilating the patient, but no one was giving emergency heart massage and no one had tried to restart her heart with an electric shock from a defibrillator in the theatre. "My thought was, 'It is not a cardiac arrest. I felt relief that maybe it was a less serious problem.' When he checked Kate's pulse, however, he discovered that her heart had stopped."

The paramedics asked Dr Basu to give Kate an adrenaline injection, and gave her seven electric shocks with their defibrillator, but she was

pronounced dead shortly after arrival at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham.

Asked about Dr Basu's demeanour at the scene, Mr Whiting said: "I believe Dr Basu was obviously concerned, he was obviously shocked by the incident. It was quite a traumatic incident."

The hearing has been told that Dr Basu should have taken the lead in resuscitating the girl with the help of colleagues at the surgery.

Christopher Hull, Professor of Anaesthetics at Newcastle University, said that Kate was denied "whatever chance of survival she may have had" by Dr Basu's decision not to use the defibrillator.

Once Kate's heart rate started to drop, the only way she might be revived was with the machine. "There was a brief window of opportunity of less than two minutes where action could have been taken," he told the hearing.

It was "quite extraordinary" that Dr Basu had thought ventilating the girl more important than trying to restart her heart, and his actions "flew in the face of common knowledge", Professor Hull said.

Rosalind Foster, counsel for Kate's parents, Patricia Dougal and Eddie Quinn, read from Dr Basu's evidence to the inquest into Kate's death in which he said he had been "at a loss to explain" her heart failure and blamed "manpower problems" for the tragedy. Part of the case against Dr Basu is that he performed the operation despite having no qualified assistant to help him.

The hearing continues.

# Nurse is suspended amid drug allegations

By RUSSELL JENKINS

POLICE are investigating allegations of sexual impropriety and inappropriate use of drugs at a general hospital in Rochdale.

Detectives will question around 70 witnesses about drugs given to patients, and may look at deaths at Birch Hill Hospital, although police stress that it is not a murder inquiry. Rochdale Healthcare NHS Trust called in police last week and a nurse at the hospital has since been suspended.

Among the allegations are claims that treatment was given either without patients' consent or against their will. Detective Superintendent Bob Huntbach said: "Allegations of improprieties by a nurse have been made. Further details will be released at the conclusion of the inquiry."

The inquiry could involve going back many years in the files to look at the drugs regime of patients before they died at the hospital.

The suspended nurse said yesterday: "I have been told by my employer and the Royal College of Nursing to say nothing publicly. Everyone knows my good character."

Ian Hargreaves, of the Royal College of Nursing, described the suspension as a matter of procedure. He said: "At this stage I am not prepared to discuss it as we do not want to prejudice investigations by the police."

"Some things have been said to management that they decided they could not deal with and the police were called in. To call them allegations at this stage is too strong a word."

# Slow heartbeats give the best clue yet to cot deaths

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN UNNATURALLY slow heartbeat rhythm in four-day-old babies gives the clearest indication yet of the risk of cot death, a 19-year study of 33,000 infants has found.

The 2 per cent of babies with the slowest rhythm ran a 40 times higher risk of dying within a year from the disorder. "Other traditional risk factors, such as sleeping in a prone position and maternal smoking, have risk factors markedly lower than those we have observed," Peter Schwartz, who led the research, writes in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

The work was carried out at ten maternity units in Italy between 1976 and 1994. On the third or fourth day of

their life, electrocardiograms were carried out on healthy children born in the units. A year later 34 were found to have died, of whom 24 were cot-death cases. Most had died during their second or third month, the typical age for victims. Half of those who had died were in the group with the slowest heart rhythms.

Dr Schwartz says that the prolongation of what is known as the "QT interval" in the heart rhythm is known to cause reduced cardiac stability. He believes that the cause could be an abnormal development in the part of the nervous system which controls the involuntary activities of the body, including the heartbeat. This could

lead to a temporary but harmful imbalance in the heart's performance.

The report says that infants with a prolonged QT interval who are at high risk of cot death could be protected by the careful administration of beta-blockers, which slow the heart beat, during the first year of life. Dr Schwartz says that a large number of children would need to be screened to identify those at risk.

The Foundation for Infant Deaths reacted cautiously to the findings. Shireen Chantler, one of its members, said: "Any suggestion that neonatal screening should be undertaken is premature and needs careful thought to avoid needless parental anxiety."

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# GP tells of the day she made climbing history

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A FAMILY doctor told yesterday how she fought against exhaustion to become the first woman to scale one of the world's highest and most dangerous mountains.

Ginette Harrison, 40, endured sub-zero temperatures and sheer ice-cliffs to conquer Mount Kanchenjunga in eastern Nepal, the third highest peak in the world at 28,199ft. All but one of the attempts by women have ended in death.

Ms Harrison's husband, Gary Pisterer, 45, who was also part of the six-strong team, had to turn back, shattering the couple's dreams of holding hands at the summit. They met as they climbed Mount Everest five years ago and Ms Harrison had set her heart on climbing Kanchenjunga after her husband failed in an attempt last year.

"It's incredible and I can't believe I have actually done it at last," she said. "I knew other women had been killed attempting the climb, so I knew what I was letting myself in for."

"It was a real shame that Gary didn't make it, not only because we wanted to go up hand in hand for the last bit, but because it was his second attempt in just over a year."

Ms Harrison, of Knowle, Bristol, who has no children, added: "The scary parts were the ice-cliff and the rockface, they were shattering. We were fighting exhaustion all the time and there was no air up there, but I think in the end it was sheer luck that got us



Mt Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest peak

through. We had a very strong climbing team and were very well prepared."

Just metres from the top they passed the bodies of two Japanese climbers who died days earlier during another failed ascent. In the final assault Ms Harrison and three Americans, Jonathan Pratt, Chris Shaw and Tim Horvath, climbed for nine hours to reach the summit at 2pm on May 18. The sixth team member, Paul Mallo, a Canadian, had dropped out early on.

Ms Harrison said: "It was the hardest mountain I have ever climbed, because we were without bottled oxygen and there was a strike, so we didn't have any Sherpas with us."

The team left for Kathmandu on March 13 for the trek to base camp, arriving on April 4. Ms Harrison said she had feared the trip was doomed because it took the team 13 days to get to base camp. She added: "There was a strike with the local porters, and

metres there was a really sheer ice-cliff that you have to negotiate and then, about 1,000 metres further up, there was an incredible rockface. At that height you are gasping for breath.

"After that it is a little bit easier, but the snow was really deep. We actually had to turn back twice," Ms Harrison said. She had trained by cycling, swimming, rock-climbing — and trekking up and down the stairs at home in full climbing gear.

The mountain was first conquered on May 25, 1955, by the Britons George Band, Joe Brown and Tony Streather and a New Zealander, Norman Hardie. An American team led by Bill Vipond tried to make Heidi Howkins the first woman to reach the summit last year, but failed after one of their team was injured in a fall.

Andy MacNae, national officer of the British Mountaineering Council, said: "This is a fantastic achievement which makes Ginette one of the most experienced Himalayan mountaineers in the world."

"When we got to 6,000



Peak practice: Ginette Harrison, a GP, back home after her record-breaking climb

## Rivers clogged by alien weeds

BY NICK NUTTALL

A QUARTER of Britain's rivers and streams have been invaded by giant hogweed, Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed, a survey by the Environment Agency has found.

The weeds, brought to Britain during the last century as ornamental plants, are increasing the risk of riverbank erosion and providing a poor habitat for wildlife.

Paul Raven, head of conservation at the agency, said: "The spread is hard to tackle, particularly along riverbanks where we are restricted to using herbicides approved for use near a watercourse."

The survey also shows that only 15 per cent of lowland rivers and streams remain in their natural state, with farming, land drainage and building responsible for changes that have altered their natural course.

## Fraud inquiry led to suicide of RAF officer

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

THE head of the RAF's School of Combat, Survival and Rescue killed himself after a double investigation began into fraud and allegations of personal misconduct, an inquest was told yesterday.

Squadron Leader Adrian Streeter, 42, left his house in the early morning and gassed himself in his car two days after being suspended.

At the time of his suspension, over allegations about his personal life, he was at the centre of a separate investigation into claims that members of the unit, based at St Mawgan in Cornwall, had fraudulently claimed travel expenses. In a statement, Squadron Leader Streeter's widow, Barbara, 41, told the inquest in Truro that her husband had been "stressed out" shortly before his death.

She said: "Several months ago, my husband came home and said there was an internal investigation going on regarding his unit. Before he disappeared he was under great pressure but he did not show it. He was stressed out, but he did not discuss it with me."

Mrs Streeter raised the alarm after waking at 3am and finding her husband had disappeared in their Volvo car. He had taken a length of garden hose and a concrete block normally used to hold the garden gate open.

He then drove to a remote track in woods near Truro, where he attached the hose to

the car's exhaust pipe. The concrete block was left on top of the accelerator pedal to keep the engine running. He died of carbon monoxide poisoning. Shortly afterwards, the car overheated and caught fire.

Squadron Leader Streeter, who had spent 23 years in the RAF, was identified from dental records. Police said no one else was involved in his death. The coroner, Edward Carlsson, recorded a verdict of suicide.

After the hearing, Detective Inspector David Rowe said: "The investigation was over fraudulent and excessive unauthorised travel and subsistence claims. There were also breaches of weapons regulations and security rules. The allegations concerned the activities of the whole unit, but obviously Mr Streeter was the commanding officer. He had travelled the world as part of his duties."

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said yesterday: "The investigation into the fraud allegations is still continuing. It is being carried out by the RAF police. A number of service personnel at the St Mawgan station are involved, around three or four. A separate investigation had also begun into an allegations relating to Squadron Leader Streeter's personal life and was the reason for his suspension. That investigation is now closed and we are not prepared to disclose the details."

## Court cuts award to police victim

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Court of Appeal yesterday reduced an award of £125,000 damages to a man beaten by police and convicted on concocted evidence to £50,000.

The ruling against Trevor Gerald, described by the court as a family man of good character, is the eighth case in two years where Scotland Yard has successfully challenged civil awards.

Mr Gerald was also ordered to pay the legal costs of the appeal which will reduce his award by another £10,000. The judgment was handed down by Lord Justice Auld and agreed by the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, and Lord Justice Buxton.

The original award was made in 1996 for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution after an incident on the West London estate where Mr Gerald lived. Colin Challenger, for the police, argued that the £25,000 in

compensatory damages, and £100,000 exemplary damages was excessive. Ben Emmerson, for Mr Gerald, argued that the case was exacerbated because none of the officers faced disciplinary action.

Mr Gerald had been arrested by police after he complained about drug dealing in the area. Police later claimed he had tried to conceal something and appeared to have taken drugs himself.

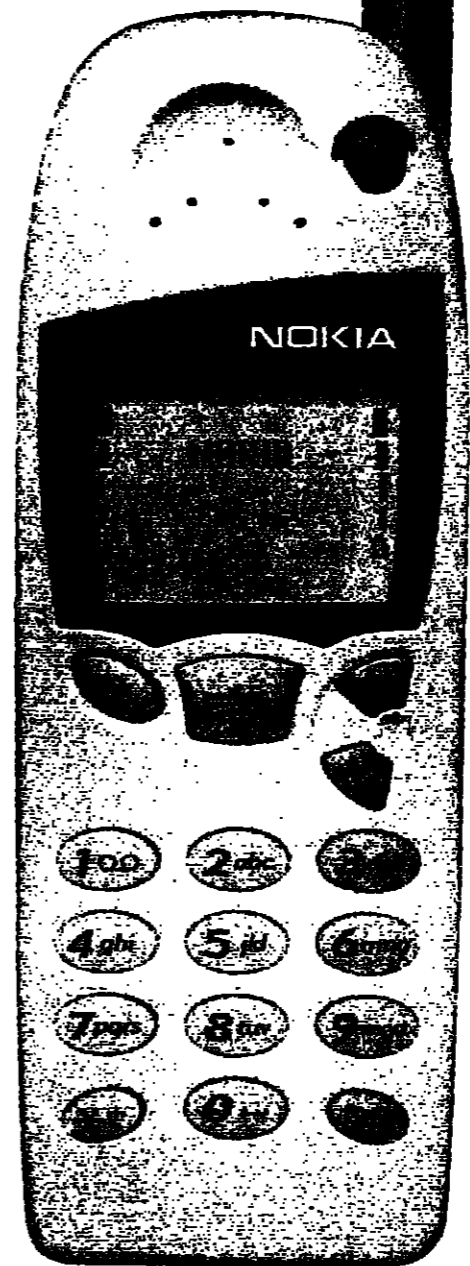
No drugs were found, but he suffered two black eyes, a bleeding lip and nose, cuts on his wrists and broken bones in his foot. Lord Justice Auld said four officers "concocted a story to conceal the fact that one or more or all of them had assaulted Mr Gerald". Mr Gerald was charged with assaulting police.

The judges said that "while we have no doubt that there should be exemplary damages (a marking of disapproval), it should be modest."

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# Laser copiers could recreate Elgin Marbles

LASER technology could recreate the remaining Elgin Marbles so that they could be returned to the Parthenon walls 200 years after the originals were removed.

"We have now got the technology which can replicate the sculptures without touching the originals," said John Larson, head of the conservation centre at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, which has been fine-tuning the process over the past few months. "We can replicate important sculptures on historic buildings with archaeologically exact copies produced with an astonishing accuracy that no carver could achieve. Even the slightest cracks are replicated."

Any material — including marble, terracotta, lead and bronze — can be faithfully copied. "The beauty," Mr Larson said, "is that even if something is so damaged you can hardly touch it, you can still make an exact copy, unlike with a mould. The laser is so fine it can cut your name in capital letters in one of your hairs."

Mr Larson, whose centre is

**Replicas of sculptures are accurate down to the tiniest crack, reports Dalya Alberge**

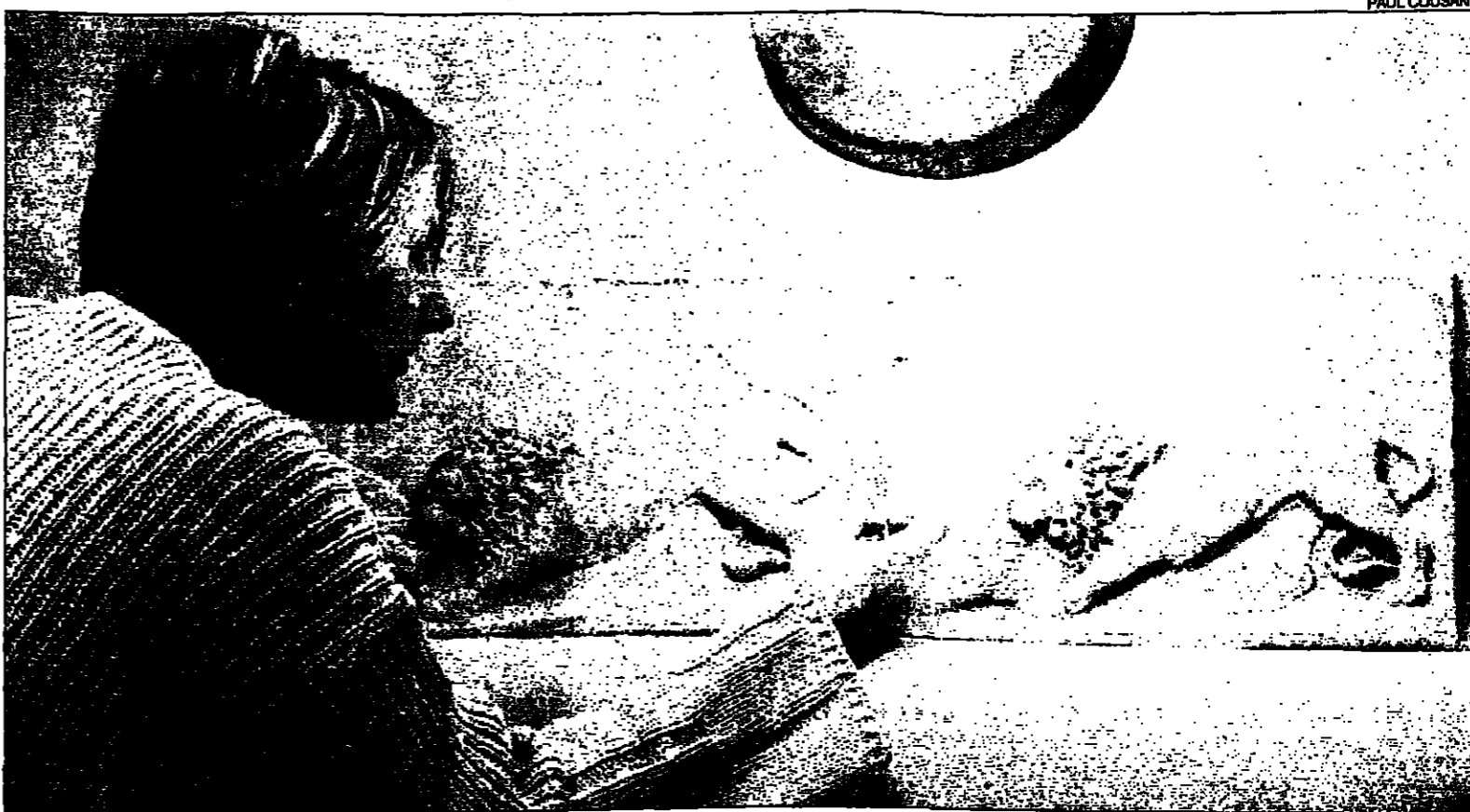
a world leader in conservation, was speaking after publication of the third edition of *Lord Elgin and The Marbles* by William St Clair, which reiterates accusations that the British Museum overcleaned the marbles in the 1930s. He said that, with the use of the laser technology, historic sites "might have sculptures put back on them in replica". Merseyside is the only museum in Britain concentrating on researching laser-based techniques in conservation, and the first in the world to have a department devoted to it. The laser is a highly complex variation of the supermarket version that reads barcodes on products. "Like

that," Mr Larson said, "this is perfectly harmless." A beam cast on to a sculpture records its outline down to a tenth of a millimetre, something that no carver could ever achieve. The process is now fast enough to reproduce a life-size figure in two weeks.

The Merseyside conservators have just replicated part of a Roman classical relief — a lion and bull across a fragment measuring about 1ft by 10in — at Ince Blundell, near Liverpool, which boasts one of the nation's great collections of classical art. Treasures which were deteriorating outdoors are being brought inside to be replaced with replicas.

"People who have seen it have been amazed at what can be done now. The technology will continue to advance but it is pretty astonishing already," Mr Larson said. If the relief had been left outside, "it would become a wreck — the surface is going". The replica was made for about £2,000.

Richard Foster, director of the Merseyside museums, said that they were coming under increasing pressure for the repatriation of antiquities and this technology could be a



Wibke Montag, a German student, compares an original Roman carving from the 1st century, left, with a replica created by laser technology

way forward. He said that the laser replicas did not offer a solution to the dispute between Greece and Britain over the Elgin Marbles, and he was in no way intervening, but "it might solve part of the problem".

However, while London had about 60 per cent of the marbles, and Athens most of the rest, other fragments were spread as far afield as Paris

and Heidelberg and these collections would need to be come involved.

Nicholas Papadakis, a spokesman for the Greek Embassy, said they were the Parthenon Marbles, not the Elgin Marbles. "It is very kind," he said, "Thanks, but no thanks. Why don't you have perfect copies at the British Museum?"

The potential of the technol-

ogy is enormous, for both conservation and education. If, for example, a museum in Istanbul owns a head from a figure whose torso is in Britain, each collection could be given a copy of the missing piece; Egyptian tombs that are too fragile to be opened again to the public could be reproduced lifelike; and entire facsimiles of temples could be recreated. Research is also

being conducted into colour reproduction. If perfected, the technique could be used to replicate paintings, complete with their impasto.

The British Museum said it would be interested in seeing the new technology at work. However, a spokesman expressed dismay that old criticisms about the cleaning of the marbles were being repeated as something new: the book

was published in 1967 and 1983 before this week.

The museum is committed to promoting an understanding of the sculptures: it is opening two new galleries dedicated to "explaining" them on June 26. Exhibits include a new scale model of the Acropolis, showing how it looked in the 4th century BC.

Books, pages 42 and 43

## Three police officers were censured in CS spray case

By Stewart Tendler  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A POLICE inspector and two sergeants were "admonished" by the Police Complaints Authority after a pensioner parked on double yellow lines was squirted with CS spray, handcuffed and held in a police station for nine hours, it has emerged.

But PC Andrew Taylor, 31, the traffic officer who twice fired his spray at Kenneth Whitaker, 67, at Kempston, Bedfordshire, has escaped any official censure after being cleared of assault by a Crown Court jury.

The judge who presided

over PC Taylor's trial, MPs and the civil rights group Liberty have all expressed disquiet about the case.

John Cartwright, deputy chairman of the Police Complaints Authority, said that CS sprays were intended to protect police from serious assaults, particularly with knives, and not for the enforcement of their orders. Public confidence would be undermined if CS spray was used in inappropriate situations.

But the Association of Chief Police Officers said it has no plans to review the use of the spray nationally in the light of PC Taylor's trial, which ended in Luton on Tuesday. PC

Taylor, of Bedford, who said Mr Whitaker was threatening and abusive, had been suspended from duty pending the conclusion of his trial.

A Bedfordshire Police spokeswoman said he was expected to return to work within the next few days.

Mr Whitaker, also of Bedford, has already accepted thousands of pounds in compensation from Bedfordshire Police after taking legal action in the civil courts. He said he was "disgusted" by the not guilty verdict.

Judge Daniel Rodwell, QC, said the case had been "upsetting and disturbing". He told the jury that it might have



PC Taylor: jury cleared him of assault charge

reason to "reflect" on the not guilty verdict and refused to award PC Taylor his legal costs.

"I think perhaps you will perhaps reflect that if other OAPs are gassed or assaulted by police they will indeed have this particular case in mind," the judge said.

## Man unlawfully killed in dryer

A LAUNDRY worker who died after clambering into a giant tumble-dryer was unlawfully killed, an inquest jury decided yesterday.

Ray Washbrook, 26, was trapped inside the drum which started to spin at between 40 and 60 revolutions a minute once he had removed a piece of linen. For 20 minutes his body was thrown around the machine as it reached 110C.

The Crown Prosecution Service is to study the case papers to decide if the companies involved should be prosecuted for manslaughter.

The hearing at Letchworth, Hertfordshire, was told by Michelle Dakin, a colleague of Mr Washbrook's: "I heard a loud banging. It sounded like bricks revolving in the dryer."

Seven hours later, early in the morning of November 23, 1996, other workers found Mr Washbrook's personal belongings on a conveyor belt. Stuart Lee, who discovered his body, said: "I saw a handprint in blood on the door." Vesna

Victim was not trained how to stop machine safely, inquest is told

would also stop working. But once inside the drum and having freed the linen, the machine was set off.

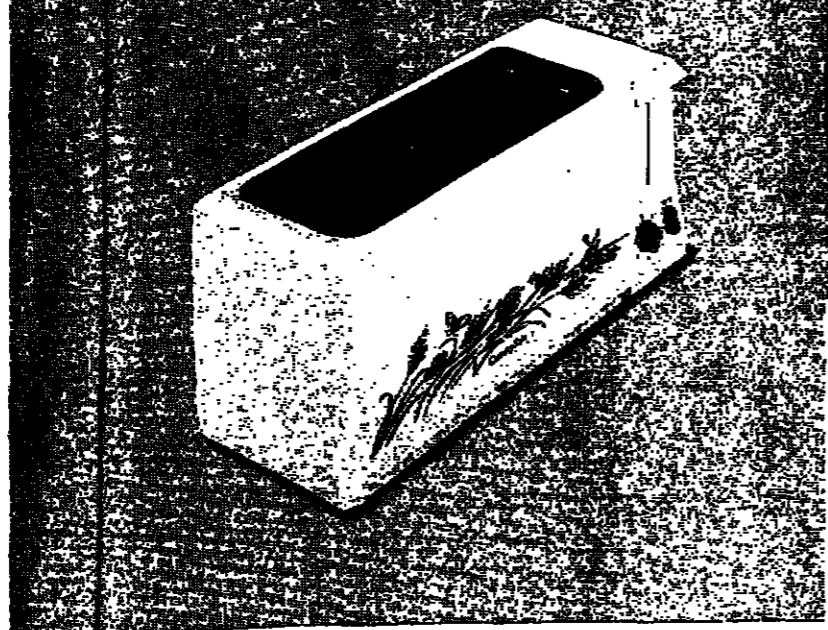
John Bak, the works engineer, told the jury that Mr Washbrook could have freed the stuck linen by pressing buttons on the control panel. He told the jury he had written to an employer in Manchester saying that not enough time had been allowed for staff training.

Mr Lee told the hearing: "I know Ray had not received full training. He was due to go on a course. Everybody in the whole plant thought that by removing the key from the control panel the system would be shut down."

Earlier this year, Broadbents of Bradford, which installed the dryer, was fined £4,000 by Stevenage Magistrates after pleading guilty to an offence under the supply of machinery safety regulations 1992. In February at Luton Crown Court, Warrenders was fined £25,000 and ordered to pay £4,399 costs after admitting breaching safety regulations.

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# Holiday haven makes locals homeless

Teenagers are sleeping rough as tourists snap up all the accommodation in beauty spot, writes Shirley English

TOURISTS flocking to the guest houses and holiday cottages of rural Cumbria are forcing homeless teenagers to sleep rough in parks, graveyards and under railway arches, it was claimed yesterday.

A six-month study of Eden Valley has uncovered a housing crisis among young people that belies the picture-postcard image of the area. Far from being a rural idyll, the countryside that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors and people with second homes each year is a poverty trap for a growing number of the 16 to 24-year-olds who live there.

homeless teenagers are at best not met, or at worst ignored, it says.

In the market town of Penrith there is a severe lack of public housing, although 750 private homes lie empty. Emergency accommodation comprises one eight-bed hostel, which means that about half of the 50 or so homeless are forced to sleep rough.

The demands of tourism mean that the owners of hotels, B&Bs and holiday cottages neither want nor need

drome, after a prolonged posting in Northern Ireland. He slept rough for six months over the winter of 1995-96, seeking shelter by climbing inside the ventilation shaft of a railway bridge.

"I started taking amphetamines in the Army, but that just made my nerves worse. I couldn't cope. I ended up leaving with a drug problem and no where to go. I was a mess and I didn't want to go home to my mum. It was hard over winter. I just had a duffel jacket and jeans to keep me warm. Nothing else. At times I thought about topping myself," he said.

It has taken him three years to get off drugs but he is still on medication for stress. And he is one of the lucky ones. Impact Housing Association, which runs the only emergency shelter in the town, has managed to find him a flat. "People think we are OK because we've got beautiful countryside to look at, but it is not like that at all," he said.

**6 Most people don't like us because they think we are going to drive tourists away?**

the young people's custom and rents are pushed up out of reach. The accommodation that is left over is either available only to the employed, or is too sub-standard to be suitable for tourists. Limited public transport, lack of secure employment and caps on benefits for the under-25s add to feelings of isolation and helplessness.

Freddie Robinson, 22, of Penrith, became homeless at 19 after leaving the Army with post-traumatic stress syn-

mentions seeing the occasional group of drunken youths in the park, but otherwise says there is no problem. She says she would never take in the homeless, particularly since a teenager span her a "look and bull" story, stayed four days and left without paying. "Anyway we're virtu-

Mandy Wilson, 17, from Penrith, left home at 15 because of family problems. She found herself too young to apply to a housing association or for benefits. Until a few months ago, she spent her time in and out of care, or "sofa surfing" around the homes of sympathetic friends.

"I felt I was imposing all the time. But their parents felt sorry for me and were willing to help. Fortunately I'm in the hostel now," she said. "But most people round here don't



Freddie Robinson, left, and Steve Lakes, who were homeless until recently. "At times I thought about topping myself," Mr Robinson said

like us, because they think we are going to drive tourists away."

The townsfolk prefer to believe that there is no homelessness in Penrith. Asked about young people being forced to sleep rough, Eileen Reid, 56, who runs Brandelhow Guest House,

ally fully booked all the time," she said.

Centrepoin says there is an urgent need for agencies, including private and public housing, social services and charities, to work together, as that is the only way they can tackle the problem.

Its strategy, which is rooted

in making the best of what is available, took the first step at a series of workshops yesterday which ran alongside the launch of the report. Proposals include adopting successful city programmes, including the rent-in-advance scheme to encourage private landlords to take in homeless young

people, with Centrepoin acting as a broker.

It also wants to see a multi-agency forum set up to discuss and co-ordinate services and believes that more emergency accommodation could be made available by time-limiting stays at the homeless hostel.

## Debts force anti-hunt group to sell land

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE League Against Cruel Sports spent so much campaigning in favour of the anti-hunting Bill that it was forced to consider selling some of its deer sanctuaries.

Leaked documents show that the league, which has considerable debts, considered selling 14 sites that have become havens to herds of deer. The list of possible sales was drawn up in February. The league's chief executive, Graham Sirl, said in a letter to the executive committee that he was deeply concerned.

"Can somebody explain to me the logic behind this decision, when the consequences of selling sanctuaries will be indiscriminate killing of deer?"

The league owns 2,000 acres of sanctuaries in the West Country, mostly pockets of land around the Somerset and Dorset border, where hunting is banned. Most

block the route of Quantock staghunts. According to leaked documents, the league has been nearly £500,000 in debt. More than £250,000 was spent on campaigning for the Private Member's Bill to ban hunting with hounds.

Sales of five sites have been agreed. The biggest outcry has been over Higher Lodge, a farmhouse on the edge of the league's West Country headquarters at Baronsdown, which has just gone on the market for £145,000.

It is seen as the gateway to a 200-acre sanctuary housing 250 deer, and opponents of the move fear it will open the herd to attack. They propose the league sells its London headquarters in Southwark.

Raymond Rowley, a former league chief executive, who began the sanctuary programme 30 years ago, said: "This goes against everything we have been fighting for. The

new people who have come in to run the league have squandered money and are taking desperate measures."

But league officials insist the five sales are sufficient to recoup the money and that the list of 14 sites was just a draft proposal. They have also retained hunting, shooting and fishing rights on the land sold, allowing them to maintain the ban on blood sports.

In an official statement, Mr Sirl said that wildlife would not be affected. "The list of 14 was drawn up for accountability reasons when we needed to raise £250,000. Since then our financial position has improved tremendously."

David Coulthead, head of public affairs, added: "We would do nothing to compromise our sanctuary strategy. We can still prosecute people hunting on the land. None of the 14 sites listed will be sold."

## The public loo that costs £53 per flush

By TIM JONES

SPENDING a penny in a public lavatory in a small Scottish town is costing council tax payers £53 a flush.

The high-technology facility for the disabled in Bonnybridge, Stirlingshire, which cost £40,000 to install and £13,000 a year to maintain, was used only 245 times in the past 12 months.

Now members of Falkirk council are demanding that the lavatory and 13 others of the same type in the area should be removed.

The lavatories, called Automatic Public Conveniences (APCs) but dubbed "metal mickys", cost £182,000 to maintain and are said to be underused. Although the minimum payment for using them is 2p, the overall cost to the taxpayer ranges from £1.08 to £53 a flush. In Bonness, the lavatory was used on 574 occasions, costing £22.65 per flush; the most popular one, near the trunk road at the Kincardine Bridge, was used 12,088 times (£1.08 a flush).

David Alexander, a councillor, said: "These toilets are a waste of money and should be removed immediately. People do not like being encased in metal boxes."

Eugene Oats, director of the council's contract services department, claimed that the lavatories provided an essential service and were popular at night and during public holidays when staffed lavatories were closed. He said: "The APCs give us a facility which can be used 24 hours a day all year round."

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 11 1998

EU ready to lift ban on British beef exports

Delight is balanced by words of caution

The government... (text continues vertically)

السنة 1355

Homeless



James Alldridge with some of the seven tons of Tornegus impounded by Reigate magistrates. The entire stock is worth £50,000

# Cheesemaker faces ruin over food bug

A GOURMET cheesemaker, whose clients include the House of Commons, Harrods and Virgin Airlines, has had his entire stock impounded after a boy aged 12 was found to be suffering from food poisoning.

James Alldridge, 58, was last night facing financial ruin after magistrates confiscated his stock of seven tons of Tornegus cheese, worth £50,000. The decision came after Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, approved an Emergency Control Order — the first since the introduction of the 1990 Food Safety Act.

The order had been imposed against Mr Alldridge's supplier — Ducketts of Wedmore, Somerset — after a boy who ate some Ducketts' cheese was found to be suffering from a minor case of *E.coli*, from which he recovered. Mr Alldridge buys 95 per cent of his stock from Ducketts. The raw cheese it supplies is not available elsewhere.

A two-day hearing, at which Tandridge District

Boys' stomach upset led to the entire stock being impounded, says Helen Johnstone

Council applied to magistrates for Mr Alldridge's stock to be destroyed, was yesterday adjourned to allow him to challenge the validity of the minister's order.

Mr Alldridge, who has run East Side Cheese with his wife, Pat, at Godstone, Surrey, for 20 years, said: "I bought this batch of cheese before contamination took place and have had it tested, and all the results have been negative." He added: "It looks like the end of our business. We were in the process of selling the trademark. Tornegus, which would have been our pension money." Mr Alldridge said the reputation he had built

up was in tatters. "My cheeses are written about in many books and I even teach cheesemaking and hygiene. The Government has taken a sledgehammer to this following one remote case of someone showing slight symptoms of *E.coli*. It is an abuse and this order is draconian. I am seeking a judicial review but that could take months and cost me £250,000 in loss of business."

Paul Barton, of Tandridge District Council, which brought the action before magistrates at Reigate, Surrey, said: "Until Mr Alldridge has challenged this our hands are tied. The council is concerned that his business is being affected in this way and the impact the order has had. But we act as an enforcement authority and we have to protect public health."

Tornegus cheese is matured for two months in a labour-intensive continental washed rind style. Mr Alldridge is one of only a few producers in Britain to continue this traditional process.

# EU ready to lift ban on British beef exports

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE stage was set yesterday for the effective end of the worldwide ban on British beef exports when the European Commission proclaimed younger meat to be safe from "mad cow" disease and called on European Union states to allow sales to resume.

The Commission unanimously backed a proposal from Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, to start the process of easing the ban on deboned meat from cattle born after August 1996 and certified free of any contact with BSE-infected animals. The member states are expected to give their approval in the autumn or possibly earlier, sending British beef back to continental shops several weeks later.

"British beef is safe," Herr Fischler assured continental journalists who voiced public suspicion over continuing risks. He insisted that remaining conditions would protect consumers and he ruled out suggestions that beef of British origin should have to be specially labelled in EU shops.

The cut-off date for younger meat, proposed by Britain, coincides with the ban on the use of animal-based feed, the suspected source of the BSE epidemic. This will allow through most beef from the six million cattle in Britain bred for export. Exports have already resumed of most beef

from Northern Ireland. Older cattle and animals connected with herds affected by BSE will still be banned.

However, general elections in Germany are expected to prompt fierce opposition to the move from the Government, in response to widespread public fears. "The German Government has always insisted that preventive measures to protect consumers must have priority," a spokesman said.

German consumer organisations attacked the proposal. "There is no new information that should lead the German Government to change its reluctance to ease the ban," the Working Group of Consumer Federations said.

EU approval could conceivably come at a meeting of national veterinary officials in Brussels tomorrow or a council of farm ministers in Luxembourg on June 22, the last under Britain's presidency.

France gave qualified backing to the proposal. Louis Le Penec, the French Farm Minister, said: "We will examine it in a favourable light but we are not there yet."

Herr Fischler dismissed suggestions that the Commission was rushing an end to the ban as a favour to the British presidency. He said it had taken nine months for the British "date-based scheme" to win approval from the EU's scientists and the Commission.

Stringent conditions, including extensive inspections, would still be imposed to guarantee the quality of exported beef, he added. To ensure that there had been no maternal transmission, only meat from animals over six months old would be eligible. This would allow sufficient time to spot BSE symptoms in the mother.

The Commission is also starting separate procedures to remove the ban on gelatine and tallow, beef by-products.

Jeff Almond, Professor of Microbiology at Reading University and a member of the Government's advisory committee on BSE, said that there was no longer any scientific basis for maintaining the ban. "The measures we have had in place since the middle of 1996 mean that the beef in the animals they are talking about readmitting really is very safe," he said.

In 1995, the last full year before the ban came into force, Britain exported carcass beef worth £594 million and live calves worth another £73 million. The Meat and Livestock Commission estimated yesterday that the ban would be lifted from up to two thirds of these exports, nearly all of which went to the EU.

"It is not going to be easy to recapture old markets, but even if the volume of exports is initially quite small, it could still have a big impact on beef prices", Richard Macdonald, director-general of the National Farmers' Union, said.

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# Portillo calls for radical approach to healthcare spending

Former minister says Labour and Tories are stuck in the past. Philip Webster reports

MICHAEL PORTILLO accused the Government and the Tories yesterday of being too timid in their healthcare policies and called for a much bigger role for the private sector.

possible for government to pay for services, so that they remained free at the point of delivery, without owning those services. "Healthcare needs extra sources of money," he said. "I can tell you this because I am not in politics. Those who are must go on pretending that they can solve the problem without changing the system."

In a lecture to the Royal College of Nursing he said that turning the NHS into a party political battleground had been "unhelpful to patients and staff". It had led to a "very tight restriction of health

expenditure" at a time when Britain was spending too little.

Although logic and genuine concern might dictate that every avenue should be pursued to increase the money available for healthcare that did not happen, because to suggest any private contribution or any change in funding produced a hysterical reaction. People who provided for themselves through insurance had been given little encouragement.

He said: "The answer to queues and queue-jumping is not to cut back on private insurance, as the

Government has by the withdrawal from pensioners of the tax incentive for private insurance, but rather to increase by every means what the nation spends on healthcare. If the Government did not own all the facilities from which it buys services, it would not need to find capital for their construction and improvement."

Fifty years after the creation of the NHS, he said, Britain was "passing through a moment of national naivety or gullibility when people live in hope that the Government will solve our problems by a

policy change here and a new funding initiative there. But it is not so. The gap between what we spend on healthcare today and what we ought to spend is very large and no party is going to make it up from taxation."

He went on: "Some combination of taxation, private capital, national insurance, charges and private insurance, might make the burden on the public more tolerable, enable the nation to spend more on health, enable people to be treated more quickly and provide the NHS with more secure sources of fund-

ing. "The politicisation of the NHS had been 'greatly to the harm' of the service. "Rational debate has become very difficult. Every sort of change, including the replacement of old hospitals by new ones, has been presented for political reasons as an attack on the service."

"It has made the Tories timid about reform, tending to shift the deck chairs around rather than addressing the basic funding problem, and has made the Labour Party cling to the Bevanite dogma of a health service financed only from taxes, whereas in every other area of political thought they have moved a long way from their 1951 positions."



Portillo: favours more private insurance

# Smith accused of dwelling on the trivial

Polly Newton on an MPs' critical view of the Culture Secretary

CHRIS SMITH, the Culture Secretary, was accused yesterday of elevating trivia above serious policy issues and failing to secure adequate funding for his department.

In one of the most scathing assessments of a Cabinet minister's performance, a committee of MPs said that he was not tough enough in negotiations with the Treasury and that his department was still failing to "box its weight" in Whitehall.

The Select Committee on Culture, Media and Sport, chaired by the former Labour minister Gerald Kaufman, decried the department's "Beef-eaters to Britpop" image and concluded: "The Secretary of State should now make it his highest priority to advance the Department both within Cabinet and by taking a much tougher attitude in his negotiations with the Treasury which has certainly not been achieved and may not even have been attempted."

The cross-party committee said that both Mr Smith and senior officials had voiced their commitment to increasing the power of the Culture Department within Whitehall. But, the report said, "a commitment is not an achievement and the Department has not enhanced its influence in the way it says it would like to

do". The MPs' verdict comes at a particularly damaging time for Mr Smith, who had already been identified as a potential casualty in the Cabinet reshuffle that is expected next month.

The committee said that, when the Department of Culture, Media and Sport was renamed after the general election — it was formerly known as the Department for National Heritage — Mr Smith had promised to promote "everything from Beef-eaters to Britpop".

However, the department had made no estimate of the future economic benefits that the arts could bring to Britain. Nor did it state aims make any direct reference to tourism, an omission that reinforced the impression that the industry was "the Cinderella of the department".

Yet, the report said, tourism

was "far and away the largest industry for which the department is responsible and, in economic terms, the most important... We are, therefore, deeply concerned that, in policy statements by the department and in public statements by ministers, tourism is subordinated in favour of more glamorous and trivial matters."

The comments are believed to refer partly to Labour's high-profile wooing of the music industry, which has included a series of well-publicised showbusiness parties at Downing Street.

The report questioned Mr Smith's insistence that National Lottery cash would not be used to finance projects that had previously been funded by the Treasury. It said that the Government's allocation to the National Lottery Memorial Fund had been cut by more than a half in 1998-99 — a reduction attributed by Mr Smith to the fact that lottery money was also available to the fund.

The Shadow Culture Secretary, Peter Ainsworth, said Mr Smith had failed to perform in every one of his areas of responsibility. "His record is one of inaction, prevarication and incompetence," Mr Ainsworth suggested that the com-



mittee had chosen to publish its report on the first day of the World Cup finals in order to minimise publicity. The "low key treatment" given to the document by Mr Kaufman was in marked contrast to the "hullabaloo" with which the committee launched its report on the Royal Opera House, which provoked resignations from the board when it was published last year.

Michael Fabricant, Tory MP for Lichfield and a member of the Culture Committee, called for Mr Smith's resignation. "I have never seen such a damning report before."

But Fiona Mactaggart, Mr Smith's Parliamentary Private Secretary, accused the committee of headline-seeking. "This is a committee which has made its name for waspish reports. It has produced a

report which in key parts is superficial and fails to substantiate its claims."

In a statement, the department said that parts of the report were inaccurate, although it welcomed "a number of useful suggestions".

Mr Smith made no comment yesterday but Downing Street defended him, saying that he enjoyed the "complete confidence" of Tony Blair.

# Symons will face MPs over arms-to-Africa allegations

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS SYMONS of Verhampton, the junior Foreign Office Minister, is to be summoned before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to answer allegations that she misled Parliament over the arms-to-Africa affair.

Donald Anderson, the Labour chairman of the committee, said that MPs wanted to question Lady Symons after Britain's most senior diplomat appeared to contradict her account of how and when she learnt about a Customs and Excise investigation into the export of arms to Sierra Leone.

Sir John Kerr, Permanent Secretary at the Foreign Office, told the committee on Tuesday that Lady Symons had been briefed about the investigation on March 10, seven weeks before Robin Cook was told about it. Two months later, in the House of Lords, she virtually denied having had any knowledge of the customs investigation until it had been made public.

The investigation was into an alleged breach by the British firm Sandline International of a United Nations arms embargo on Sierra Leone. Sandline said it had Foreign Office approval to supply mercenaries and arms to the forces that restored civilian rule to the country in March.

Mr Anderson was asked on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme whether Lady Symons' appearance would be embarrassing. He said: "Clearly she told the House of Lords last month that she was not aware of the allegations relating to Sandline and arms supply. It may be... that she was informed, and if that was so, no-one is seriously suggest-

ing that she deliberately misled the House of Lords."

At Prime Minister's Questions yesterday Tony Blair said there was "not a shred of evidence" that any minister had deliberately misled Parliament over the affair, and dismissed William Hague's suggestion that he should sack Lady Symons.

But Mr Hague told him: "You obviously hope that you reach your reshuffle before the truth catches up with your ministers. Isn't the worrying about this whole affair that it tells us about the condition of the Foreign Office? A Department of State known for its diplomacy and professionalism has been reduced in one year to a place where telegrams are sent but never arrive, answers are given but have to be retracted, where papers are submitted but no one ever reads them, where ministers don't know what is happening in their own offices let alone overseas."

Mr Hague demanded: "Can you put your hand on your heart and say you are proud of your Foreign Office team?" To Tory jeers, Mr Blair said that Mr Hague's questions indicated a lack of seriousness as there were many pressing global issues that the Opposition would do better to concentrate on.

Leading article, page 25

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons, Education and Employment Questions; details of requests for Cardiff European Council debate on improvement of Professor David Lowery in Portugal; in the Lords, European Communities (Amendment) Bill, Commons amendments; National Minimum Wage Bill, committee; Tamsin Bridgeport, second reading; Criminal Justice (Child) (Northern Ireland) Order.

# Ex-PoWs gain fresh hope from meeting with Blair

By POLLY NEWTON

FORMER Japanese prisoners of war claimed a breakthrough in their campaign for compensation yesterday after meeting Tony Blair to press their case.

They said the Prime Minister had promised that Government lawyers would examine a new legal opinion

obtained by the veterans which suggested there were grounds for a fresh claim against Japan. He was said to have assured the men that the "political will" was there to pursue a claim if the law supported their case.

Downing Street said that the meeting had been "very amicable", although a spokesman emphasised that Mr Blair had been careful not to

raise false hopes. "There is a political will on behalf of the Prime Minister to do what he can for the PoWs given the circumstances," he said. However, he stopped short of confirming that the Government would necessarily lodge a claim if its lawyers agreed with the opinion obtained by the veterans.

The Prime Minister spent half an

hour in his House of Commons office with Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, and Keith Martin, chairman of the Association of British Civilian Internees (Far East region). After the meeting, Mr Martin said: "I think he was moved by what we had to say. I told him that civilians were not trained to face

were raped, children had to work hard, and at the end we had lost everything. There is nothing like hearing it from a victim."

Mr Titherington said: "I asked him not to be too long, because we are dying out. We don't want them in sit back and wait until the problem is resolved in some other way."

# Coal plan owes more to emotion than logic

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

LABOUR Governments are suckers for clever chaps with business experience who devise schemes to second guess the markets in the hope of saving jobs. Most Labour ministers have little direct knowledge of industry and therefore have an exaggerated reverence for those who have made money in business. The late Harold Lever was the Mr Business of the Wilson and Callaghan Governments, and Geoffrey Robinson is performing the same role now, mainly for Gordon Brown.

However, such schemes usually turn out to be not as clever as they are presented. They do not save jobs in the long-term, and usually cost the taxpayer large sums of money. That is precisely the danger with the ingenious proposals that have been devised by Mr Robinson in an attempt to safeguard jobs in the coal industry. This has become a test case of Labour's attitude to business and free markets.

The rescue plan was due to be announced by the end of this week, but has had to be reopened because of objections raised by the electricity generators. However, a decision has to be taken by the end of the month when temporary contracts for the supply of deep-mined coal to the generators expire. The Government is trying to protect about 5,000 mining jobs without increasing electricity prices paid by consumers. But such a happy outcome is not achievable. Someone has to pay and there are costs from intervening in the energy market. The only way that mining jobs can be preserved

is via a special deal to supply coal to the generators with restrictions on the building of gas-fired power stations (now subject to a moratorium). But the whole affair is a hopeless intellectual muddle, as was made clear in the report on *Energy Policy* from the Trade and Industry Committee of the Commons (on which there is, of course, a sizeable Labour majority). The report says: "There are no reasons on grounds of supply, or in terms of confidence in

Such schemes usually turn out to be not as clever as they are presented"

ready granted. Such controls would also protect the market share of the big generators with substantial coal burning capacity. The present position is far from ideal and there are defects in the wholesale electricity market. But such flaws would be aggravated by the type of proposals being considered by ministers. They would further distort the market and increase prices, as John Redwood has said. Preserving the deep-mined coal industry is also a perverse policy in other ways. Coal mining is an unhealthy job, and the 5,000 miners whose jobs are at stake are mainly highly skilled and re-employable. Concentrating on saving jobs reflects the "lump of labour" fallacy and ignores the dynamics of the labour market. Moreover, the decline in coalburn and the steep rise in gas use in power generation explains much of the overall decline in carbon dioxide and sulphur dioxide emissions since 1990, and have therefore helped Britain fulfil its environmental goals.

The rescue plan is not only confused in detail but is also wrong in its aims. It runs counter to the Government's non-interventionist approach to business and inward investment, risks higher prices and less competition, and is environmentally unfriendly. It would delay, not avoid, a further contraction in the coal industry. However ingenious Mr Robinson is, the plan is motivated by Old Labour sentiments rather than New Labour logic.

PETER RIDDELL

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THE TIMES... Kohl... turns... and to... Minsk... halt envo...



# Kohl spin-doctor turns to rough and tough tactics

FROM ROGER BOYES  
IN BONN

THE German election campaign is turning dirty as Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, now advised by rough-tongued media consultants, tries to exclude rivals and even allies from the political spotlight.

Herr Kohl is lagging a long way behind Gerhard Schröder's Social Democrats — 37 per cent against 43 per cent for his rivals, according to the latest opinion poll. He is playing his two strongest cards: his standing as an international statesman and his hold on official media events. Yesterday his victims were still smarting from his crude oneupmanship.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, was baffled in Luxembourg this week when fellow European Union ministers started to discuss a joint EU initiative penned by President Chirac of France and Herr Kohl in an effort to shape the agenda of the Cardiff summit. Somehow Herr Kohl had forgotten to mention this letter to his Foreign Minister. Herr Kinkel flew into a rage.

The Chancellor has apologised but the letter was plainly not an oversight. The Chancellor, with the help of Joachim Bitterlich, his personal adviser, is pursuing his own foreign policy and doing so in a way that creates the best possible headlines before the September 27 general election. Herr Kinkel is a Free Democrat, the Chancellor's junior coalition partner, and is not going to be given the



GERMAN ELECTIONS

time of day unless he shouts for it. In slightly different times the Chancellor's snub would have been enough to bring down the Government. Today it is part of the free-for-all. More predictably, Herr Schröder is finding himself blocked by the Chancellor's media men.

As president of the Bundestag, the upper chamber of parliament, Herr Schröder is entitled to meet top foreign visitors and this generally twins very well with his election campaign. President Yeltsin thus had breakfast with Herr Schröder on Tuesday — but the Government cancelled all plans to film or photograph the occasion. The Kremlin leader, sitting alongside Herr Kohl later, said sheepishly: "I had no choice but to meet him." But it was in fact the Russian Ambassador who initiated the meeting. And the media were excluded at the behest of Bonn because of "security concerns".

The Chancellor came to the defence this week of Otto Hauser, his new government spokesman, who in a few days has managed to upset fellow Christian Democrats, the nation's Jewish community, eastern Germans and the Bonn press corps. He compared the east German post-communists to the Nazis, suggested that east Germans should be more grateful for aid from the west and refused to give interviews in English "because I am the spokesman of the German Government, and the German Government speaks German".

This is a charm offensive without the charm. The calculation may be that it brings the Government closer to the average voter in the pub, the common man who in the west has no particular love of ex-communists or for that matter smooth-talking spin-doctors. The man behind the new rough-and-tumble image is Hans-Hermann Tiedje, a former editor of the mass circulation *Bild*. His mission is clear: to snatch back the working-class vote if necessary by beating the patriotic drum.

The Chancellor cannot fend off criticism about abandoning the German mark for the euro — but he does not have to because no mainstream political party questions the move. But he can, along with Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, demand "his" money back in the form of a EU budget rebate. That part of the election campaign begins in Cardiff.

Leading article, page 25



German military recruits in Berlin yesterday during their swearing-in parade. Police stopped anarchists disrupting the ceremony

# Far Left threatens to wreck Berlin boulevard

By ROGER BOYES

BERLIN was yesterday braced for a night of rioting after 6,000 left-wing protesters were frustrated in their attempts to disrupt a public swearing-in of about 300 army recruits. Protected by six cordons of police who blocked off much of the city's centre, the nervous-looking recruits pledged loyalty to the Constitution.

"We welcome the new citizens in uniform," Eberhard Diepgen, Mayor of Berlin, told the young infantrymen and airforce recruits. The police action was so comprehensive that the square in front of the so-called Red Town Hall, scene of the ceremony, was almost empty. The screaming and

whistling that usually accompanies the national anthem on such occasions was almost inaudible: loudspeakers, car horns and weapons had been confiscated. The 2,500 police stayed on alert because the anarchists had fall-back plans to destroy the exclusive boutiques of the Ku'damm shopping boulevard after nightfall. During the Cold War, Berlin became a haven for conscientious objectors and only Allied, rather than German, army units were stationed there. Radicals and pacifists from western Germany spent years in the divided city to avoid the call-up. There was uproar when the Government announced its plan to swear in the troops

on August 13, the anniversary of the 1961 building of the Berlin Wall — deemed a poor day to demonstrate military strength. The event was brought forward to yesterday, but Berlin authorities knew there would be chaos. "There will be many flashpoints and we cannot expect this day to end peacefully," said police. Left-wing demonstrators are particularly restless because they believe the police are discriminating against them in favour of neo-Nazis. The next neo-Nazi march in Berlin is planned for June 20 with some 700 right-wing extremists expected. Leftwingers are organising a counter-demonstration and the police — if they follow the example set by other cities such as Leipzig — will spend most of that day defending neo-Nazis from bottles and stones hurled by leftwingers. Critics are urging Berlin's authorities to ban the march, but politicians argue that if neo-Nazi parties are constitutionally acceptable then they must be able to demonstrate. □ New York: Hard-drug use in Germany rose 20 per cent last year and the damage "must not be minimised", Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday, the final day of a United Nations special session on drugs. Delegates from about 150 countries are expected to adopt a plan to curb trafficking, money-laundering and narcotic cultivation by 2008. (AP)

# Minsk marks time to halt envoys' walkout

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AN EXODUS from Belarus of 22 foreign ambassadors, including the British and American envoys, was halted at the last minute yesterday when the Minsk Government agreed to delay the seizure of their residences. The ambassadors have been ordered out of their homes in a diplomatic compound amid suspicion that President Lukashenko, who lives next to the site, wants to take over the whole area in a pine wood on the edge of town for his own use. The authorities had welded shut the gates to the home of the US Ambassador and threatened to block all access to the compound at midday yesterday. Western diplomats have rejected the Belarus claim that urgent repairs are needed to utilities, and are outraged that they were not to be allowed to return to their residences. No

date was given for completion of the work. With air tickets in their pockets, all EU ambassadors and seven others were prepared to leave en masse yesterday. But at the last moment the authorities relented, extending the deadline for a week to allow more time for talks. The British Embassy residence is not inside the 50-year-old Drodzy housing complex, but Jessica Pearce, who has been in Minsk for two years, would have led a walkout of all European Union ambassadors in solidarity with the three from Italy, France and Germany whose homes were to be sealed. Western ambassadors say the Minsk move is a clear breach of the Vienna Convention, which governs the inviolability of diplomatic missions and residences. The Belarus Foreign Ministry said yesterday that unless

the repairs were undertaken quickly the compound could start "swimming in its own sewage". A spokesman added: "We are not breaking the Vienna Convention... but we are preparing to repair the residences." The tough Western response comes amid increasing consternation over the eccentric and arbitrary rule of President Lukashenko, a Soviet-style autocrat who has attempted to stifle all opposition to his growing power. Last year Belarus passed a law making it an offence to insult the President; the penalty is a five-year jail sentence. Belarus accused the ambassadors yesterday of giving a political tinge to the dispute. A spokesman said the diplomats saw all events from a political point of view, accusing Minsk of human rights abuses and building a dictatorship. "We have tried hard to maintain a working relationship with Belarus," James Rubin, of the State Department, said in Washington. "The Government has made that task even more difficult by this unnecessary, foolish and illegal provocation." The American Ambassador, Daniel Speckhard, said he would wait another week to see if Belarus changed its mind. The Russian Ambassador has taken an equally tough line. "We're not preparing to leave; the residence is the property of the Russian Federation," the embassy said. Eviction notices were first served in April, with a deadline of June 1. This was extended, and the Foreign Office summoned the Belarus Ambassador in London to warn him of Western opposition to the order.

Leading article, page 25



Sergei Kiriyenko, left, the Russian Prime Minister, with President Lukashenko of Belarus yesterday

# Black Widow 'had heart of gold'

TWO male friends of Patrizia Reggiani, the widow of fashion mogul Maurizio Gucci, urged the Milan court trying her for his murder to believe that she had a heart of gold and would never have dreamt of killing him. Andrea Stramezzi, 40, a dentist and Renato Verona, a 53-year-old industrialist, described Signora Reggiani — dubbed the "Black Widow" — as a gentle person who had spoken about the possibility of Gucci dying, but who would not have carried out the crime "in her wildest dream". Signor Stramezzi told the court that he had had a relationship of "profound

friendship" with Signora Reggiani between October and December of 1994. He had remained in contact with her and went so far as to offer to accompany her to the mortuary to identify the body of her divorced husband soon after he was shot and killed. For his part, Signor Verona, a former lover of Signora Reggiani, said he had a "sentimental relationship" with the widow whom he met in October 1994 through friends. He said he was still in touch with her and had frequently exchanged letters since her arrest and detention at Milan's San Vittore prison. Signora Reggiani declined to appear in court yesterday.

Both men told the court that she was concerned that her former husband would squander the family fortune and thus damage the interests of their two daughters. Signor Stramezzi said that she had told him she wished her husband was dead. But he said that in his opinion she could not have had murderous intentions. Signor Verona is a well-known figure in northern industrial circles, where he is nicknamed "the man with the laminated wallet" because of his Midas-like image. Meanwhile, Archbishop Carlo Maria Martini, the Cardinal of Milan, has raised the prospect that, even if they are convicted, Signora Reggiani and the other defendants in the trial might be free within two years. The cardinal announced that he was in favour of the Government issuing an amnesty for prisoners at San Vittore prison to coincide with the special holy year that the Pope has called for the year 2000 to mark the millennium.

# \$1m gift ensures poor get sex pill

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN  
IN NEW YORK

ONE of the richest traders on Wall Street has donated \$1 million (£615,000) to a hospital here so that the drug Viagra can be made available to men who are impotent, elderly and impoverished. He explained: "I guess you could say I'm kind of into basics." Alan Greenberg, 70, chairman of the securities firm Bear, Stearns, has pledged the money to the Hospital for Special Surgery on Manhattan's Upper East Side. According to *The New York Times*, the tycoon — who revels in the nickname "Ace" — decided on the gift only a few days ago, after he read that some state health insurance programmes were refusing to pay for prescriptions for the new male potency pill. Mr Greenberg said: "I think it's something that will give a lot of pleasure to a lot of people." Questioned why he made the gift, he said: "I own stock in Pfizer, so it's not altruistic." Pfizer is the pharmaceutical multinational which manufactures the pill. John Ahearn, joint chief executive at the hospital, said that he had not yet worked out how the free pills would be dispensed. He was certain, however, that it would be for older men only. The endowment, he said, would pay for more Viagra than was really required and he was discussing the possibility of using the remainder for more traditional needs. A single Viagra pill costs \$8 to \$10. Mr Ahearn said: "It's a lot of pills. Physicians are obviously sympathetic to it. They have said this is an area where there is a need. It is really a compassionate thing to do."

# Fireworks launch Kazakhs' new capital city

ASTANA, Kazakhstan: President Nazarbayev formally opened Kazakhstan's new capital city yesterday in a symbolic act to affirm the Central Asian state's independence. He held the official opening ceremony: "From today, the name of Astana will become known to the whole world." The President, who has led the former Soviet state since

independence in 1991 after decades of often brutal communist rule, moved the capital from Almaty late last year. Almaty lies 750 miles to the south. The name of the new political centre was abruptly changed from Akmola after the President said he was fed up with people translating it as "white tomb" instead of the

official version of "white plenty". Astana is the Kazakh word for capital. Concerts have been held night and day around the city centre, and thousands of people have filled the streets to join in the festivities and view the stunning fireworks displays. Mr Nazarbayev said that moving to Astana was a

strategic decision to place the capital at the heart of his vast country, five times the size of France. However, unofficial explanations for the costly relocation include Mr Nazarbayev's desire to neutralise the high percentage of Russians living in the north and his wish to distance the seat of power from China. (Reuters)

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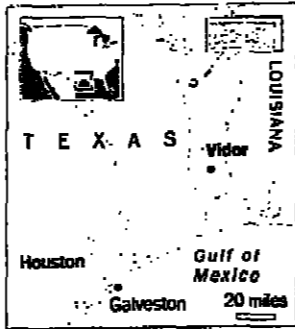
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# Murder turns spotlight on US racism



The spot where James Byrd's head was found, a mile away from the rest of his body, after he was dragged by a pick-up truck, above, along a back road in east Texas



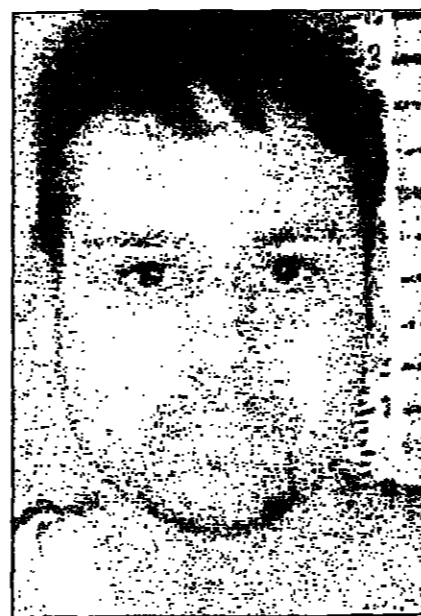
**Ku Klux Klan is still preaching its old gospel of hate, writes Tom Rhodes**

AMERICA faced the gruesome shadow of its racist past yesterday after three men with suspected ties to the Ku Klux Klan were charged with chaining a disabled black man to a pick-up truck and dragging him for two miles along an asphalt road in east Texas. James Byrd, 49, a father of three who had been beaten semi-conscious, lost his head, part of his neck and right arm in the course of what local police described as the most brutal killing they had seen. His disfigured torso was then dumped unceremoniously into a little creek at the side of the road outside Jasper, a small timber town near the border with Louisiana.

Lawrence Brewer, 31, of Sulphur Springs, and Shawn Berry and John King, both 23, of Jasper, were charged with murder and refused bail. The three suspects had all spent time in prison where, according to Sheriff Billy Rowles, they had formed connections to the Klan and the Aryan Nations, a white supremacist group. Mr King and Mr Brewer, he said, both wore tattoos indicating allegiance to hate groups.

The killing comes exactly a year after President Clinton stood before a graduating class in San Diego and announced he would develop a plan to heal a nation divided by race.

Less than two weeks ago, a white man pleaded guilty to murder in Independence, Virginia. He had been accused of burning and beheading a black man. The latest drunken orgy of violence, reminiscent



The three men accused of a brutal race murder: left to right, Shawn Berry, Lawrence Brewer and John King

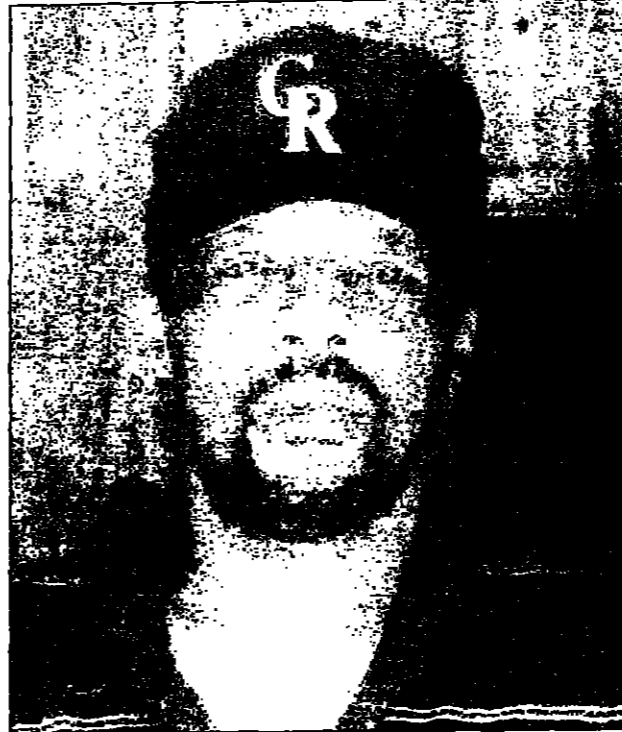
of the country's pre-civil rights days, heightened fears in the United States of a new wave of racially motivated crimes. And in Jasper, less than an hour's drive from Vidor, a KKK bastion, the murder provoked fears that the town's black population might retaliate for the brutal death of a man who was well liked.

Jesse Jackson, the black civil rights activist, was visiting Jasper last night in an attempt to calm tensions. In Washington, Kweisi Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, urged the Justice Department to bring federal charges. "These cowards," he said, "should never walk the same street again."

Based on a chilling confession from Mr Berry, he and his companions had been riding around in a pick-up last Saturday night when they saw Mr Byrd on the side of dirt road and offered him a lift. A former vacuum salesman disabled by an arm injury, Mr Byrd was walking home from his niece's engagement party. He suffered from epilepsy and so was not permitted to drive.

Mr King is said to have objected to the hitchhiker because he was black, but the trio, believed to have been drunk, picked him up anyway. After stopping at a local shop, Mr King allegedly drove to an isolated area six miles from the town where he and Mr Brewer were said to have beaten their victim senseless.

Barely conscious, Mr Byrd was then chained to the back of the truck and dragged 10,000ft along the narrow



James Byrd had been to a party before his fatal lift

road. His wallet, keys and dentures were scattered along the route. More than 75 red circles, painted on the road by police, marked the spots where belongings and parts had been torn from his body. His head and right arm were found a mile away from the mangled torso.

In the creek near the final remains, police discovered beer cans, a wrench engraved with Mr Berry's name and a cigarette lighter reportedly inscribed with a symbol of the Aryan Brotherhood, Possum.

Mr King's name in prison, was also engraved on the lighter.

The suspects initially were arrested on a charge of possessing stolen property when they were caught with a large quantity of frozen meat. Now that murder charges have been issued, FBI agents have arrived in Jasper, scouring the area to determine whether the killing should be classified as a hate crime. Depending on the eventual charge, the three could face the death penalty.

Mr Byrd, who had served jail sentences for both theft and forgery, once reported to the same parole officer as Mr King and may have met his alleged murderer at the time. But the possibility that the two knew each other has done little to detract from overwhelming evidence of a hate crime. Police said that they had found white supremacist literature among the suspects' belongings.

"All the evidence shows that the slaying was racially motivated," said Sheriff Rowles yesterday after being pressed on whether hate groups lived in the region. "There's some kind of everybody here. I am not going to tell you there are no Ku Klux Klan or Aryan Nations members living in Jasper County, all I can tell you is that in my long experience as a policeman here I have never seen an organised effort by either the Ku Klux Klan or the Aryan Nations."

The blacks of Jasper have remained unconvinced by the comments of whites that racism has not been allowed to breed in the established haunts of the Klan. But Melinda Washington, one of the victim's six sisters, urged against retaliation. "I do think this was a hate crime. But we don't want things to get out of hand. We don't advocate violence. That's not the way to do it."

Joe Roy, of the Southern Poverty Law Centre, an Alabama group that tracks hate crimes, said: "I think it was guys who were ruthless, brutally, racially motivated. I don't think it was a group-inspired deal."

## Southern Baptists define wives as 'helpers'

Salt Lake City: The largest Protestant faith in the United States has amended its statement of beliefs for the first time in 35 years to include a statement that says women should "submit graciously" to their husbands.

The Southern Baptist Convention adopted the declaration at its annual meeting, after electing as its president a man who has long been the scourge of the moderate and liberal wings of the

Church. "A wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband, even as the Church willingly submits to the headship of Christ," reads the new eighteenth article of "The Baptist Faith and Message".

White husband and wife are of equal worth before God, according to the article, a husband should provide for, protect and lead the family. A wife has "the God-given responsibility to respect

her husband and to serve as his 'helper'". The new article also defines marriage in heterosexual terms as "the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime".

Faige Patterson, 55, the newly elected president and a preacher since 1981, said: "We needed to say something about what a biblical family is." But such a strong statement is rare from prominent Protestant and Catholic denominations. (AP)

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## Argentina charges ex-dictator over child kidnappings

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE notorious former dictator of Argentina, Jorge Videla, was arrested yesterday on charges of stealing the children of torture victims and having them adopted during the "Dirty War", which marked the 1976-83 military regime.

General Videla, 72, faces up to 25 years' jail if convicted over the illegal adoption of at least five children whose parents were among 30,000 people who "disappeared" and were killed by military death squads. Although jailed for human rights crimes after the country's return to democracy in 1983, he and dozens of other officers were released in 1990 after being pardoned. However, the amnesty on rights abuses did not cover hundreds of cases of child theft and illegal adoptions.

Judge Roberto Marquetti, who signed General Videla's arrest warrant yesterday, is using a legal loophole

to bring him to trial. Human rights groups say at least 300 children were born in clandestine torture camps and most are believed to have been "sold" to childless military couples. At the time the military claimed that the children of "subversives" were being handed over to "decent families" so they would be given a Christian upbringing.

Young adults who found out their parents were among the "disappeared" have begun a search for their families. Twenty have been reconciled in a DNA test campaign launched by the "Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo" - women who have spent the past ten years searching for their children's children.

Judge Marquetti first linked former General Videla to twins who were sold to Norberto Bianco, a former army major, and his wife, Susana Wehrli. The children's real families traced the couple to Uruguay and initiated a legal battle for custody, which they won last year. During the hearings, General Videla's personal involvement in the case was disclosed.

Three other families have also filed suits involving three babies born in captivity. Their whereabouts are not known.

General Videla became President after military officers toppled the Government of Isabel Peron in March 1976. Gaunt-looking, with a thin moustache, he has lived since his acquittal like a recluse in a prosperous Buenos Aires suburb.



Videla: facing up to 25 years in prison

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# Democrats scent victory as Gingrich 'revolution' loses its edge

If everything goes right for Democrats in Congress between now and November, they may just grab back control of the House of Representatives in the mid-term elections.

The White House is still immobilised by the investigations into the degree of intimacy of the President's relations with Monica Lewinsky and with China. But on Capitol Hill, two miles away, there is the sign, for the first time in years, that real politics is stirring.

With the air of schoolchildren breaking up for the summer — but knowing that next year is examination year — members of Congress are



AMERICAN AGENDA  
BRONWEN MADDOX

anxiously acknowledging that the race will be closer than it seemed just months ago. What was unthinkable

could happen: the Democrats could regain the House, making Newt Gingrich's 1994 "Republican revolution" a brief interlude in nearly five decades of Democratic control.

For dispirited Democrats, the numbers are tantalising. Republicans won 54 seats in the bloodbath of the 1994 mid-term elections, emphatically puncturing Democratic euphoria at President Clinton's earlier victory.

However, they lost ground in 1996 as Mr Gingrich's revolution lost its way. Now, they have a majority of only 11. "It's going to be a close election", Ralph Reed, the Republican strategist, said.

On his reckoning, "the best case for Republicans is they win ten seats, the worst case we lose the House".

Each member of the 435-strong House faces re-election every two years. It promises to be a good year for incumbents, strategists reckon, with voters delighted by the booming economy and not in a mood to throw their representatives out.

Of the total, only about 65 seats will see real contests, strategists believe. The toughest fights will come in the 33 "open" races, where the incumbent is standing down.

Showing a new worldli-

ness, in several of these races the Democratic Party has backed candidates with more conservative views than it might normally accept — even those opposed to abortion and gun control. That is thought to have given Democratic candidates an edge in districts in Pennsylvania, Idaho, Mississippi and Kentucky.

Three months ago Republicans were in a more confident mood. Allegations that the President had oral sex with a 21-year-old trainee in a room behind the Oval Office were a gift beyond the most self-indulgent political dreams. But so far voters have not punished Mr Clinton in the

polls, taking out their apparent boredom instead on the television stations, which find the pulling power of Washington scandal dropping sharply.

Nor have allegations that Mr Clinton allowed sales of sensitive military technology to China to go ahead in return for illegal Chinese donations to his campaign yet damaged the White House.

Republicans hope there will eventually be as much mileage in this as in the Lewinsky saga, particularly during the President's trip to China at the end of this month, but this remains a weapon of untested destruc-

ive power. The ebbing of those twin scandals, for now, has exposed the poverty of the Republicans' leadership of Congress.

Despite energetic attempts to rehabilitate himself in public affections, Mr Gingrich has not recovered from his decision to shut down government in 1995 after failing to reach agreement with the White House.

In the Senate, Trent Lott, the Majority Leader, has proved a disappointment to his followers, duller and less decisive than hoped, only partially filling the vacuum left by Mr Gingrich's imple-

ment. But not all is flowing against Republicans.

There is, as always, the cash factor: a Republican "Dial for Dollars" drive this week led by Mr Lott was bountifully successful. And party leaders are mustering: Bill Paxon, a former rising star who is retiring at the end of the year, has agreed to return to the National Republican Congressional Committee to boost spirits.

On the abstract of these calculations, House Democrats' chance of victory is tiny, though real. But if they pull it off, they will provide a priceless boost to Vice-President Al Gore in his bid for the White House in 2000.

# Runaway fires devour Mexico's virgin forests

THE view from the air of the worst forest fires in Mexico's history can be deceptive. After four months of burning, much of the rainforest canopy is still green, even as smoke billows from the mountaintops over an area the size of Wales.

Shouting over the noise of a Skycrane helicopter on loan to the Mexican Government, an American pilot explained what had happened: "Underneath, it's all gone dead. Half a million acres." Hard on the heels of similar disasters in Asia and Brazil, a drought blamed on El Niño has turned much of Central America's remaining virgin jungle into a tinderbox that is now ablaze in what President Zedillo has called "a true ecological tragedy".

A vast pall of smoke drifting north as far as the plains states of the US has galvanised an international firefighting effort, but those on the front line, where 61 have died, are the first to admit that nature is winning. From Chimalapas, 50 miles west of here, near the Oaxaca state border, a helicopter on a converted football pitch sends fire crews and water bombers, whenever visibility allows, into the remote Chimalapas

The US describes the disaster as the worst of its kind in the world, writes

Giles Whittell in Tuxtla Gutiérrez

forest, which experts say has never burnt before and is home to at least 1,500 endangered species.

"When I first got here two weeks ago there were fires as far as the eye could see," George Converse said as his Skycrane was being refuelled. Flying into Chimalapas on Tuesday was still like flying into fog. Above charred foothills flanking the Pan-American Highway for hundreds of miles, dozens of slow-burning fires were steadily destroying what used

to be a unique high-altitude cloud forest. Opaque white smoke had replaced the mist that usually shelters the birds and orchids thought to be unique to the region.

At a cost of several thousand dollars an hour, the Skycranes are being used to drop 1,600 gallons of water at a time on fires that have climbed sheer cliffs by burning up moss-filled cracks. Helicopters are the only weapon available, but their effectiveness is open to doubt. Aiming is pure luck. Even a direct hit often only suppresses a blaze because much of the jungle's root system is now burning underground.

Calling the disaster "the most serious of its kind we've seen in the world, including Indonesia," America has provided \$8 million (£5 million) of aid to Mexico's firefighters in the form of air support, hand tools and boots. Until it started arriving, local volunteers were battling the fires in bare feet,



Mexican soldiers battling with fire in the Magdalena Contreras hills near Mexico City. Air quality has suffered near the Canadian border



often armed only with buckets and machetes. Even now, many have to walk for up to 12 hours from the nearest helipad to reach the flames.

Almost all the fires have been started deliberately by peasant farmers clearing land before a rainy season that has not materialised. Tuxtla Gutiérrez, which normally re-

ceives 9ft of rain a year, has had nothing measurable so far. Few locals blame anything but an unkind freak of nature.

Dallas, 2,000 north of the worst fires, has been enveloped by smoke for most of the spring, with dangerous ozone levels and frequent health alerts, shutting schools and

forcing pedestrians to wear masks. Air quality has been affected as far north as the Canadian border.

President Zedillo has tried to blame some of the fires on drug-growers and traffickers seeking to distract officialdom, but most experts dismiss the idea. The country's leading environmentalist, the poet

Homero Aridjis, has condemned his Government's response as too little and too late, saying that waiting for co-ordinated action has been like waiting for Godot.

Dan Gosnell, a Californian firefighter co-ordinating US aid to Chiapas state, blamed local farmers: "They don't know what ozone is. They

don't even know where Texas is. You go and talk to them about waiting for two months before starting their fires, and they get scared they will never get the crop in."

Asked who had the upper hand in the struggle to save what remains of Mexico's rainforest, Mr Gosnell said bluntly: "The weather."

# Thousand feared dead in Indian cyclone

Delhi: More than 1,000 people were feared dead after a cyclone struck the western coast of India near the Pakistan border (Coomi Kapoor writes).

It ripped through the coastal region of Saurashtra in Gujarat state, leaving a trail of destruction. Thousands of

thatched houses were blown away, power and communication lines snapped, transmission towers and trees were knocked down and life in many parts of the state was paralysed.

The cyclone was the worst to hit Gujarat, which took the full force of the storm, in 25

years. On Monday about 20,000 villagers in low-lying areas were evacuated, but some of the smaller coastal villages in Kandla district, where huge waves moved up a creek, were totally flooded and cut off.

In the port town of Kandla, the authorities had recovered nearly 200 bodies. Almost the entire population of 30,000 fled after false rumours that a stranded tanker was leaking gas.

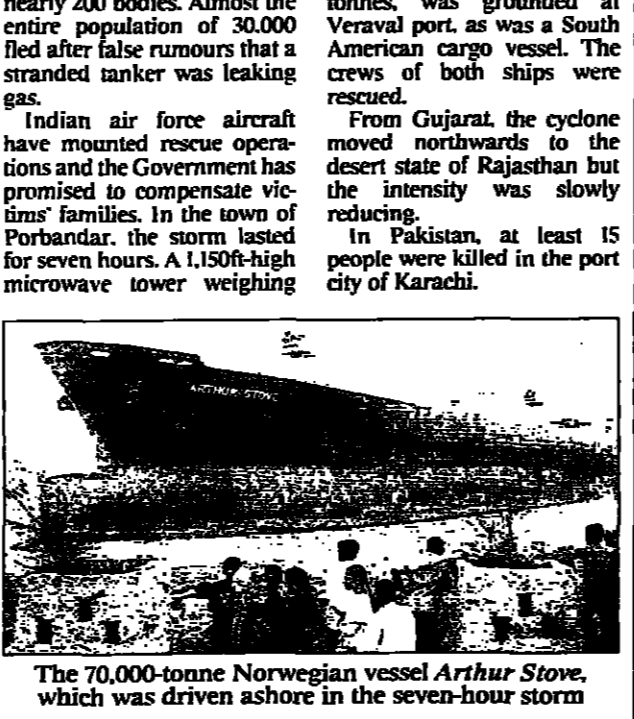
Indian air force aircraft have mounted rescue operations and the Government has promised to compensate victims' families. In the town of Porbandar, the storm lasted for seven hours. A 1,150ft-high microwave tower weighing

around 3,000 tonnes lay mangled and crushed. Raju Jethawa, a mason, told how he had woken up to see the tower uprooted from its foundation and tilting on to his building. He escaped as it crushed several houses.

A Norwegian ship, the *Arthur Stove*, weighing 70,000 tonnes, was grounded at Veraval port, as was a South American cargo vessel. The crews of both ships were rescued.

From Gujarat, the cyclone moved northwards to the desert state of Rajasthan but the intensity was slowly reducing.

In Pakistan, at least 15 people were killed in the port city of Karachi.



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# Belgrade pledges to wipe out 'terrorists' in Kosovo



Tom Walker was taken in a wary convoy to Kosovo as the Serbs pleaded for Western tolerance of tough repression

THE Serbian Interior Ministry vowed yesterday to continue the systematic eradication of the Kosovo Liberation Army, and pleaded with Nato and the West to understand that Belgrade was committed to routing out the "universal evil of terrorism" by its own tried and trusted methods.

Coming on the eve of the Nato summit and after nearly four weeks in which the Serb military has destroyed hundreds of houses in the western Decane region, the plea is likely to fall on deaf ears.

The conflict has evoked some of the worst images of the Bosnian war, and the Serbs know their chances of launching such an operation

again — as they evidently intend — may spark some form of military intervention.

After a three-hour journey through Montenegro, a route chosen to avoid any embarrassment of a confrontation with the Kosovo Liberation Army in the remote reaches of the province, the Serb Ministry of Interior brought a 20-vehicle convoy of journalists to the city of Pec, at the northern end of the broad Decane valley.

The reporters, ushered into the local hotel, were told by the Serbs' main administrator for the region, Bosko Drobniak, that the ethnic Albanians enjoyed an "unfortunate illusion of independence". He said that



Abandoned horses roam the burnt-out outskirts of Decani after fighting between Serbian forces and rebels. Thousands of Kosovans fled across the border into Albania

while the Kosovo Liberation Army existed the security clampdown would continue.

"We expect a much higher understanding from the international community," he said, beneath a portrait of President Milosevic. "We are acting like any country would when faced with such a threat."

Mr Drobniak said the West's attitude was hypocritical, and described the European Union's decision to reimpose a ban on investments in Serbia as "completely unjust and inhuman".

Afterwards, the convoy, escorted by trucks of heavily armed special police units and plainclothes officers in unmarked cars, drove at speed

down the Decane corridor, the scene of resistance from the guerrilla forces, which the Serbs admitted had taken them by surprise.

While the town centre of Decani was relatively untouched by the fighting, houses in the town's backroads were completely destroyed.

General Sreten Lukic, the policeman in charge of the operation, said the rebels had deliberately blown up their own houses, and denied that his forces had used artillery or tanks during the operation, a claim difficult to reconcile with the mass destruction on view.

"The misuse of religious facilities during shooting" was the explanation

given for damage to various mosques in the valley.

Inside Decani police station, the Serbs revealed a room full of weaponry that they had seized from rebel bunkers in the town: the cache comprised

He said the rebels had now lost their supply lines to the west, over the mountains to Albania, and were now on the retreat. The guerrillas had hoped, he said, to cut the Serb supply lines and to form a

final address to journalists in front of a dying sheep. Decani and other villages visited on the tour stank of decaying animals rotting beneath the hot sun; the Albanians claim Serb snipers used their livestock for target practice.

General Lukic's administrative superior, David Gajic, told journalists that they had to understand what happened in the Second World War in Kosovo to understand the savagery experienced in the last few weeks.

Then the ethnic Albanians, working for the forces of fascism, had "killed 40,000 Serbs in one night", he said. "It is very useful for you to get acquainted with how there are

such a low number of Serbs here these days," he said.

Mr Gajic was appointed to oversee security in the region after the disastrous publicity in March over the massacres of Albanian families with rebel links. His answer has been to seal off Decane, while villages have been bombed from the hills in an operation last seen in the Bosnian war.

Now, he said, it had to be repeated in other areas. "We will do it, if not limited by the outside world." He blamed Albania for trying to undermine Serbia, and stated that a "senior Albanian who became a general in the Croatian Army" was commanding the Kosovo Liberation Army.

◊ We expect more understanding . . . we are acting like any country would when faced with such a threat ◊

hundreds of Kalashnikovs, bazookas, grenades, recoilless cannon and other light weaponry. "I don't believe I have to add anything else," General Lukic said.

"transfer zone" throughout western and southern Kosovo. They had brought in foreign mercenaries, he said, including "at least 50 Mujahidin". General Lukic delivered his

## Nato to train in Albania and Macedonia for raids on Serb targets

NATO is planning large-scale airstrike rehearsals for possible raids on Serb targets in Kosovo during a training operation in Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia this weekend.

In a dramatic show of firepower in the two countries bordering the Yugoslav province where Serbian forces are carrying out "ethnic cleansing", reminiscent of the worst excesses in Bosnia, up to 50 Nato aircraft may be involved.

The proposal to launch an air exercise and to carry out live firing in both Albania and Macedonia is expected to be approved by Nato defence ministers in Brussels today. One Nato source said the aim

Alliance leaders are planning to deliver a noisy message before sending in the bombers, writes Michael Evans

of the air exercise was "to create as much noise as possible" and to get the message to President Milosevic the Serbian leader, that the alliance had the capability to send in bombers at short notice.

Two ground and air exercises are being planned in Albania and Macedonia, in August and September respectively. Each will involve about 500 troops and will be carried out under the auspices

of Nato's Partnership for Peace programme. However, the alliance is anxious "to do something immediately" which is why the air exercise this weekend has been proposed.

Nato sources said it was hoped that as many alliance air forces as possible would take part. The RAF is expected to send aircraft. If approved, the live firing exercise in Albania and Macedonia will take

place on the same day. The defence ministers will also discuss military options that could lead to "real" airstrikes in Kosovo aimed at forcing Mr Milosevic to end the violent repression against the majority Albanians in the province and to reach a "Dayton-style" peace accord on the lines of the November 1995 agreement on Bosnia.

Nato sources said that although every option was being considered, there appeared to be little enthusiasm for sending troops into Kosovo until an agreement had been reached. The sources said that the United States was particularly opposed to sending troops while Serbian forces were still carrying

out attacks on Albanians. However, the military authorities in Nato have warned alliance ambassadors that governments must be prepared to deploy ground forces to Kosovo once a settlement had been reached.

"There is no point in having airstrikes to impose a settlement if the alliance is not willing to go all the way and send troops to implement the agreement," a Nato official said.

Although no studies have been carried out into the possible size of a peace implementation force, Nato military planners will be seeking to copy the structure of the alliance-led Stabilisation Force (Sfor) in Bosnia. Sfor consists of

35,000 troops but has to operate over a larger area than Kosovo.

Nato ministers are expected to ask military officials to accelerate their contingency planning so that detailed options can be ready for political decisions by the end of this month or early next month.

Nato governments are backing off the idea of sending up to 20,000 troops to guard the northern border of Albania because of the cost and the fear that it would have no significant impact on events within Kosovo.

William Cohen, the US Defence Secretary, said yesterday at the beginning of a European tour that there was a sense of urgency among Nato members to stop the

slaughter in Kosovo, but he warned against siding with the Kosovo Liberation Army whom Mr Milosevic has called "terrorists".

Britain has US and French backing for a draft United Nations resolution that would authorise the use of force in Kosovo but Russia, which enjoys traditional ties to Serbia, has given mixed signals on the issue.

In Paris yesterday, senior diplomats of the Contact Group on former Yugoslavia — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy — met to discuss the agenda for a conference in London tomorrow of the group's foreign ministers.

## British dealer murdered 'on orders of Thai vice-girl wife'

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

A BRITISH banker was killed for a £3,000 murder contract after threatening to leave his Thai wife, a former prostitute, a court in Phuket was told yesterday.

Two attempts were made on the life of Roger Jennings, 56, after killers came to Phuket from northern Thailand, 500 miles away, but the first was abandoned after the hitmen crashed their car en route.

Jennings, a former Hong Kong bond dealer with Manufacturers Hanover Trust, was murdered in his bedroom — stabbed 19 times with ceremonial knives from his own collection, which included a Japanese samurai sword, the court heard.

The man who hired the assassins, Run Yajalim, turned state witness to give evidence against Jennings's wife, Nongnut "Alice" Tung-Kaburi and two men from Chiang Rai in northern Thailand, who were hired to carry out the killing on December 15 last year. Jennings from Brookman's Park, Hertfordshire, died in a pool of blood after threatening to leave the woman he met while she was working as a vice girl in Phuket's Patong beach, the court was told.

"Nongnut telephoned me after a row with her husband to say she wanted Roger killed," he said. "She said she would pay 3 million baht (£50,000) and pay for my daughter's education if I could find a killer. She would also pay 200,000 baht (£3,300) to the person who actually carried out the murder."

Mr Run said he found two men and they went to Phuket to inspect Jennings's home and the bar he had bought for his wife, named the "Alice Bar".

"They went back to Phuket again but crashed their car on the way so the murder attempt

was abandoned. I found two other men and took them with me to Phuket. We arrived on December 15. I met Nongnut in the car park of a hotel and Nongnut drove away with the two men. They never discussed how they planned to kill Mr Roger," he added.

Mr Run's son, Wattana, told the court that on the day of the murder he had been asked by "Alice" to pawn some of her jewellery and collect a large amount of cash from the bar. He was also ordered to go to the couple's house in the evening and take the maid and guard dogs for a car ride. He dropped the maid back home at 11pm and was serving at the bar when she came rushing in saying that Jennings had been murdered. Mrs Jennings then fainted, he said.

Jennings was a senior bond dealer in Hong Kong, with a remuneration package which included a chauffeur-driven car, free flights home, and a home in prestigious Repulse Bay. However, his wife died in a scuba-diving accident in the Philippines, and while on holiday in Phuket he fell for the Patong beach vice girl. He abandoned his career, moved much of his cash to Thailand, and bought her a BMW, and a luxury house on Patong Hill estate overlooking the Andaman Sea.

Mrs Jennings is charged with Kraivorn Kamnorn, 32, and Thivakorn Chaiprasith, 17, both farm labourers, with the murder. She has been granted bail and continues to run the bar in Phuket.

The case was adjourned until June 26. **Gang arrests:** Two suspected members of a Thai trans-vestite gang that targets and robs Japanese tourists have been arrested and charged with attempted robbery, police said. (AP)

### WORLD IN BRIEF

#### Peace strains tell on Russian Army

Moscow: More Russian servicemen died last year, in peacetime, than the year before, when Russia was still bogged down in its war in Chechnya, according to statistics released yesterday. The number rose from 1,037 to 1,057 and even more are expected to die this year.

The figures, released in parliament, offer some of the starkest evidence yet of the crisis affecting Russia's military. From January to April of this year, 132 members of the armed services committed suicide. Armed plunging morale, the military has also been plagued by bullying deaths and soldier-on-soldier shootings. (AP)

#### Children join slaughter

Kigali: About 1,000 Hutu militia members, including women and children, killed 29 people, mainly women and children, and injured about 20 in a raid on a camp for displaced Tutsis in northwestern Rwanda, the Rwandan News Agency said. The camp houses about 300 Tutsis who left Rwanda in 1959 and returned to the country after the 1994 genocide and Rwandan Patriotic Front victory. (AFP)

#### 'Tax swindle' aide sacked

Moscow: President Yeltsin dismissed Yuri Yurkov, left, the head of Russia's State Statistics Committee, who has been charged with helping big companies to evade tax. Mr Yurkov was arrested on Monday with his deputy and up to 20 others. Police seized \$920,000, about £600,000 of it at his home. There could be far-reaching implications if data used to make policy and collect taxes was falsified. (AP)

#### Clinton to address Chinese


Beijing: China has agreed to let President Clinton deliver a live radio and television address to the Chinese people on a state visit later this month, a diplomatic source said. The Beijing authorities also banned *The Sensual President*, a book on sex scandals involving Mr Clinton, consisting of newspaper articles translated into Chinese, to avoid embarrassing visiting Americans officials. (Reuters)

#### Venice islands for sale

Venice: Local authorities are to sell two islands in the lagoon which separates Venice from the Adriatic sea, but the buyer must renovate historic buildings on them. The islands of San Clemente and Sacca Sessola, which have two derelict hospitals, are offered for about £7million, but turning them into hotels or conference centres will cost about £35million each. (AFP)

#### Ferry takes Atlantic record

Ceuta, Spain: The record for the fastest Atlantic crossing by a commercial passenger vessel has been broken by the *Catalonia*, a 300ft ferry that arrived in this north African enclave city from New York after an average speed of 40 knots. *Hoverspeed Great Britain* had held the record — and the Hales Trophy — since 1990 with an average of 36.65 knots. Both ships were built by Incat Australia. (AP)



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**Yuppie**

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**Ethiopia**

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# Yuppie fighter braced for sacrifice in battle over arid wasteland

STANDING by his luxury Toyota Land Cruiser, its white paint and windows covered with a camouflage layer of mud and cow dung, Mengith, one of Eritrea's new yuppies, an Internet junkie and communications engineer, was in a philosophical mood before heading for the front line.

"The Ethiopians, I think, made a bit of a mistake. They underestimated how militant our population is," he said.

Sporting the nearest thing to a military outfit he has worn since he fought in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front in the 1970s as a 15-year-old, he shrugged off the suggestion that his tiny country could not outlast Ethiopia in a protracted war.

"You have to understand, even



Eritreans, despite an Ethiopian air and sea blockade of their country, are confident that the enemy has again underestimated them, Sam Kiley writes

our President does not have bodyguards. We are all his bodyguards, we are all soldiers, men and women, and we are all prepared to fight for our independence," he said, tipping back a khaki hat more suitable for a tourist in Kenya than a soldier.

Smoothing the creases in his off-white chinos, he explained that he had returned to his homeland after almost a decade in New Jersey, working for the American tele-

phone giant AT&T. "I came back to make it work, to make money, and serve in my country," he said.

"Things were going very well until this mess. Perhaps it is better that we get it over with now — sort out the borders once and for all."

Then he leapt into the £30,000 vehicle, and roared off to a front line that the day before had been pounded by thousands of mortars, artillery shells and missiles in a bloody battle for Zalambessa. His

easygoing commitment to the Eritrean cause may be matched by the fighting spirit of the mainly ethnic Tigreans recently mobilised to swell the Ethiopian Army's ranks. But in the long run the Ethiopians are less likely to have the stomach for a conflict over what amounts to useless strips of rock and scrub along the disputed border.

If the conflict does drag on, however — and there are very few signs of a negotiated settlement — the Eritreans may have to tighten their belts. Ethiopia has blocked all commercial air traffic into Eritrea and threatened to shoot down chartered aircraft, including those carrying journalists. Eritrea's giant southern neighbour has also cut off most shipping coming into Masawa, the main

port, with the threat of air attack. A net importer of almost all food, including the staple diet of *injera*, a pancake-like dish made from fermented grass seed which grows only in Ethiopia, newly independent Eritrea can ill afford a war. In financial terms, conflict will be ruinous.

Only five years old, and seen as a paragon of good governance by Western donors, Eritrea's future looked harsh but hopeful before fighting started early last month. A highly disciplined population, brought up to endure the harsh semi-desert climate, has backed enthusiastically the mobilisation of 60,000 people for reforestation and other public works. They think nothing of 18 months' compulsory national service, and

endorse the self-help philosophy of their leaders.

But a Third World country cannot live on good intentions alone, not in peace time, and not in war. The evacuation of almost all foreigners earlier this week will set back plans to develop a Red Sea tourist trade, and aid is unlikely to flow in while Eritrea prosecutes a war of bewildering provenance.

Yemane Gebremeskel, the government spokesman, confirmed official concern over the air and sea blockade. He said the international community should pressure Ethiopia to lift its threat.

In military terms, Ethiopia has the overwhelming numerical edge, with about 600 battle tanks compared with Eritrea's few dozen. But Eritrea is almost impregnable.

Its mountains suit neither tanks nor jets, rather favouring dedicated infantrymen, like those who fought for 30 years to win independence.

With a per capita income of \$100 a month, Eritrea's Government is unlikely to invest in second-hand MIGs with a price tag of about £3 million. But it does have people like Mengith, prepared once again to take to the hills and fight for as long as it takes.

"The tragedy of this war is that it could go on for years. Both sides know about commitment. For the Eritreans, it is probably the only word they can understand at a time like this," said a clergyman in the Orthodox Church, a religion shared, like most other cultural assets, by both sides.

## Ethiopians open new front to wear down Eritrea

FROM SAM KILEY IN ASMARA

ETHIOPIA and Eritrea reopened a western front in their border conflict yesterday, accusing one another of starting the latest round of hostilities that is likely to trap both sides in a war of attrition.

The fighting around Badme came after Meles Zenawi, the Ethiopian Prime Minister, declared that he would not restrict any counter-offensive to Zalambessa in the east, where a bloody battle on Tuesday claimed large numbers of lives on both sides. He was enraged by Eritrea's success in Zalambessa, indisputably inside Ethiopia, after a massive Ethiopian attack was

repulsed. Analysts in Asmara, the Eritrean capital, said yesterday that Mr Meles had obviously ordered his generals to seize Eritrean territory around Badme so that it could be used as a bargaining chip in any peace negotiations.

They also expect him to launch an offensive around Asab, Eritrea's second Red Sea port. An Ethiopian victory there would be a major blow to Asmara, and would give Ethiopia its own access to the sea for the first time since Eritrea won independence in 1993.

The Ethiopian strategy, clearly aimed at stretching the smaller Eritrean forces to their limits along a border more than 1,000 miles long, was accompanied yesterday by artillery salvos against Eritrean forces inside their own territory.

The fighting around Badme is likely to be treacherous because the normally rocky terrain has been recently inundated with heavy rains, turning the area into swamps, swelling rivers and cutting off



Ethiopian villagers cheer a convoy of soldiers on their way to the front line at Zalambessa, where Eritrea has repulsed an offensive

road access to the border for both sides. The sudden deluge is unlikely to favour either side.

Missiles landing on boggy land are less damaging to infantry and big guns, and will force commanders to rely heavily on manpower to dislodge their enemies from trenches that are difficult to approach even with tanks.

"The fighting in Badme will be very bitter, very ugly, hand-to-hand, and lots of bayonet charges," said a Middle East-

ern diplomat who has been based in Asmara for decades and was a witness to the conflict during Eritrea's 30-year war of independence against Ethiopia.

The escalating border conflict has been matched with a strident propaganda campaign against Eritreans living in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Local newspapers have been running stories for weeks portraying Eritreans, many of whom are employed in government, as thieves,

lunatics and spies. This week Addis Ababa claimed that 3,000 Ethiopians living in Asmara had been ordered to leave Eritrea and their possessions had been confiscated.

But there is no evidence of any significant anti-Ethiopian feeling in Asmara, where the Government launched a publicity counter-attack yesterday, saying that "the more than 100,000 Ethiopians residing in Eritrea continue to live and work as before."

In Senafe on Tuesday, I

witnessed the arrest of an alleged Ethiopian spy. The young man stood out from the crowd because of his features, typical of Ethiopia's majority Oromo tribe. He was suspected because he appeared lost in the town about 15 miles north of the front line. The youth, wearing a nylon sports shirt and tracksuit bottoms, was trapped by civilians before being beaten and slung into the back of an Eritrean army lorry heading for the front.

"Will he be shot?" an Eritre-

an official from the Ministry of Information was asked.

"No. He's just a small boy. They gave him a dollar or two and just sent him out into the wilderness. He'll be made a prisoner of war," the official replied.

Eritrea claims to have captured more than 100 Ethiopians. Some have been seen apparently in good health but Asmara has so far refused the International Committee of the Red Cross, or foreign journalists, access to them.



## Settler go-ahead prompts 'Arab mobilisation' call

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE Palestinian Authority called yesterday for a "general mobilisation" of Arabs against Jewish settlement policies after Israel sanctioned the building of 58 new homes for Jews on the Mount of Olives in annexed east Jerusalem.

The Interior Ministry granted permission to the Beit Orot Jewish seminary, one of a number of properties and organisations in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. The seminary is funded by a retired American Jewish bingo millionaire, Irving Moskowitz, who lives in Florida and opposes the Oslo peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The appeal to Arabs was made by Ahmed Abdel Rahman, the Secretary-General of the Palestinian Authority (PA). He said: "We call upon the members of our people to organise in order to protect

their land with all possible means." Mr Abdel Rahman described the granting of permission as another example of Israeli "arrogance".

The authority said that giving permission to more than double the complement of 100 Jews studying at the seminary continued a series of "provocations" by settlers in east Jerusalem in recent days, including taking control of four houses that were previously owned by Arabs in the Silwan Palestinian neighbourhood.

"The PA firmly condemns this aggression against Palestinian landowners in east Jerusalem," Mr Abdel Rahman said.

Reuven Pinsky, the executive manager of Beit Orot, said: "As far as we are concerned, we have passed the final legal obstacle." Haim Silverstein, the executive director of the seminary, which

was built on land seized in the Six-Day War, declared: "We are returning to an area that is sacred in Jewish history."

However, Ir Shalem, an Israeli group which monitors Jewish building in Palestinian areas, said: "The decision to confiscate land from Arabs to allow Mr Moskowitz to make room for a neighbourhood for Jews contravenes the laws of natural justice."

As tension mounted in east Jerusalem, dozens of American peace activists clashed with club-wielding Israeli police in a violent protest against the Jewish occupation of homes in Silwan. One protester, Norman Finkelstein, of New York, said: "Why should these Palestinians who have lived in Jerusalem for hundreds of years be evicted from their homes so that Jews from Brooklyn can live in them?"

## Kabbah appeals to exiles

PRESIDENT Kabbah

of Sierra Leone has launched a campaign to persuade more than 40,000 exiles in Britain to go home and help to rebuild their country (Michael Binyon writes).

Thousands of engineers, doctors, traders and civil servants who fled the military junta are needed to repair the devastation of the past year and consolidate the reinstated Government. By far the largest group lives in Britain, with 20,000 in London alone.

Julius Spencer, the Information Minister, said in London yesterday that if educated people took leave from jobs in Britain to return for only three months, they could still help.

## Mandela prepares a summit farewell to Europe's leaders

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT Mandela will say goodbye to Europe at the Cardiff summit. The South African leader will be guest of honour at the final luncheon on Tuesday, where the 15 leaders of the European Union will pay glowing tribute to the man they all credit with the peaceful transition from apartheid to multiracial democracy.

Mr Mandela, who is in Britain on a private visit, will be received by the Queen in Windsor Castle on Monday, and will fly to Cardiff to hold bilateral talks with EU leaders in the margins of the summit. Tony Blair has invited all leaders to stay on for a farewell lunch in his honour on Tuesday.

Mr Mandela, who will be 80 next month, is not due to leave office until after the next general election in South Africa, which is expected next

spring. So great is the demand for him to say farewell to leaders around the world, however, that he has begun a valedictory tour, and is trying to attend as many summit meetings as possible where he can see many world leaders at the same time.

On Friday he will attend a charity performance of *Kar and the Kings* at the Vaudeville theatre in London. The popular South African musical, with a South African cast, has returned to the West End, and Friday's performance will benefit a South African fund set up to help the creation of jobs. Mr Mandela will address the audience after the show.

The President, who visited Britain twice last year, will be accompanied by his companion, Graça Machel. On Tuesday he will be given the freedom of the City of Cardiff

— to add to the many freedoms he has been granted in Britain. During his last visit at the Commonwealth summit in October he was made a freeman of Edinburgh.

South Africa is preparing a huge celebration for his birthday, and thousands of goodwill messages will be sent from Britain. But a High Commission spokesman said that Mr Mandela was unlikely to make another visit to this country this year. Diplomats say that he may not be in Britain again before he retires from office.

□ Cape Town: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released minutes of the apartheid-era State Security Council which recommended that Mr Mandela, who spent 27 years in jail, be released only after he became too physically weak to pose a political threat. (Reuters)



Mandela: will meet the Queen at Windsor

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**Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on rodent ulcers; growth hormone secretions; the importance of defibrillators; the benefits of inoculation; and nicotine and cancer**

# When an ulcer is sinister

Forty years ago, in my Norfolk practice, two patients who lived within a few hundred yards of each other could both have been described as having rodent ulcers, although their cases were very different. One was a 65-year-old farmworker whose appearance still betrayed the East Anglian descent from the Vikings: tall, fair-skinned, blue-eyed, with the remnants of blond hair and a tanned, ruddy face. The other was a recently born girl.

While the baby slept one night in her mother's thatched, rat-infested, tumble-down cottage, the rodents crept into her cot and bit her face and chest. The baby's treatment was simple: antibiotics were prescribed, together with a military metal trunk. The trunk, covered in wire netting, kept the rats at bay while the girl's gnawed and inflamed tissues healed.

In contrast, the farmworker's problem was insoluble. Harry Goodrum (not his real name) had a rodent ulcer caused by a lifetime in the sun. Although no rat had bitten him, his flesh, too, had been gnawed away — but by a slow-growing skin cancer.

The rodent ulcer is a form of skin cancer. Known as a basal cell carcinoma, it is treated by surgery, and most patients have no further trouble. It does not spread to other parts of the body and does its damage only by spreading in the immediate area.

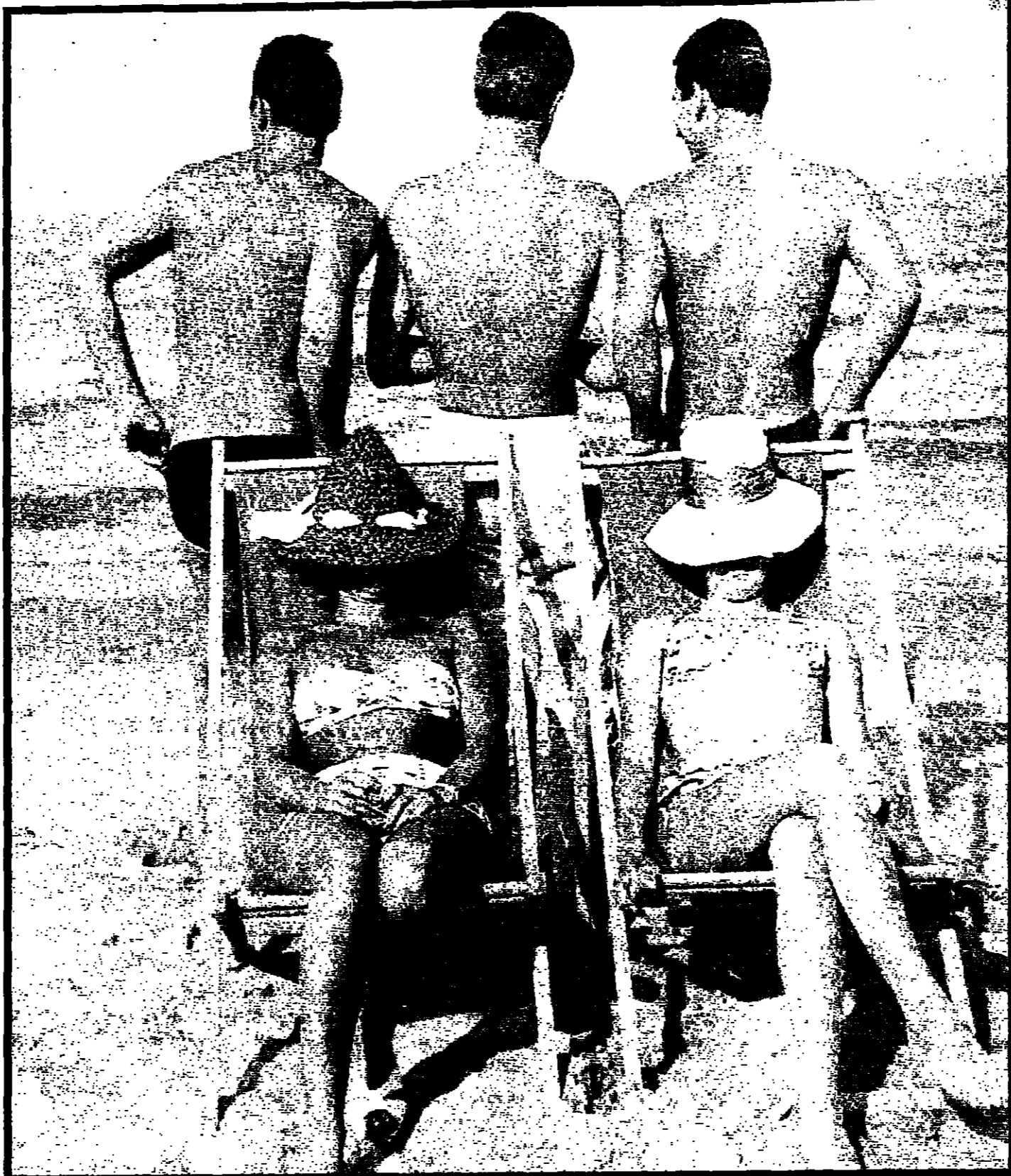
The rodent ulcer is so named because doctors in ancient times thought that the end result of an untreated ulcer looked as if the patient had been chewed by rats. The ulcer destroys the surrounding tissue and burrows into the deeper layers of the face. As it grows it erodes the muscles, blood vessels, nerves and even the bones, as it did with Harry.

Harry's case history could have been taken from any textbook. He was the right gender and age (it usually affects the over-50s), and had the fair skin and the constant exposure to the sun so often found in patients with rodent ulcers. He told me that the ulcer, which I saw only in its late stages, had started in the skin over his cheekbone as a small, firm, shiny nodule, with little veins threading across its surface. The developing rodent ulcer starts as a firm nodule; it is often described as pearly, as it has a raised, rounded edge, sometimes with an opalescent look.

The ulcers come in a wide variety of forms. They normally appear on the face, characteristically in the triangle from the top of the eyebrows to the ear and back again to the upper lip. The upper cheek, the side of the nose, the ears and, more important, the eyelids are all often affected. Any nodule on the upper face, particularly if it ulcerates and does not permanently heal, should excite suspicion. Rodent ulcers can form in the skin of other parts of the body, particularly the trunk.

Not all rodent ulcer nodules have a pearly appearance; they may be even pigmented. Eventually the nodule ulcerates, oozes and becomes scabby. It used to be taught that the ulcers could vary in size from a pinhead to a pea before ulcerating, although by the time they reached the size of a hazelnut they had always done so.

Spotting and treating the ulcers is such an age-old part of everyday medicine that it is hard to believe that any new discovery could affect its course. It has always been assumed that the secret of giving a patient a 100 per cent chance of recovery was to treat



Basking in the sun holds hidden dangers: constant exposure can lead to the development of cancers such as the rodent ulcer

the ulcer early. Research by Nigel Horlock, a surgeon at the RAFT Institute at Mount Vernon Hospital in Middlessex, confirms the importance of early treatment, but has also shown that the type of rodent ulcer liable to cause serious trouble has always been different from the 95 per cent that are readily cured.

Potentially dangerous rodent ulcers penetrate the deep layers of the face from an early stage. This extension of the tumour is not detected by standard

pathological studies, but the research team at the RAFT Institute is developing staining techniques that will reveal changes induced by the hidden proliferating malignant cells of a sinister rodent ulcer. The surgeon can then re-operate, making a wider excision.

Other ways of treating these ulcers are also being investigated. Lasers are likely to be of clinical importance within a year or two. The RAFT institute team is also investigating gene therapy.

## Farmer's growth

When the National Health Service was set up 50 years ago, there were plenty of servants in the doctor's house, but he struggled away in the surgery without a nurse or any other ancillary staff. In contrast, housekeepers such as Janet in *Dr Finlay's Casebook* have now become practice managers in the local health centre, where they direct a huge team of doctors, nurses, therapists of one sort or another and receptionists.

I personally am very grateful for some clinical experience provided by one of our household staff: she married a local farmer, who developed acromegaly — only four new cases of which are diagnosed annually. Many years later, when I began to work in the practice, I saw the farmer again. He was as kindly and friendly as ever, but his appearance had changed beyond belief. He had become lantern-jawed, there were great folds down the side of his face that had become fissured — rather like a bloodhound — his skin was oily, sweaty and coarse; his head had become enlarged and his hands were the size of spades; his back was bowed and his arms hung so that his hands reached his knees.

The immediate diagnosis of acromegaly, the oversecretion by the pituitary gland of growth hormone after the long bones have finished growing, was easy but treatment was difficult. The pituitary is a small gland tucked away in the base of the brain. It controls other endocrine glands, rather as a conductor controls an orchestra, while the hypothalamus, which is influenced by emotion, has some impact on the pituitary.

People with acromegaly often already had enlarged hearts, which were further strained by high blood pressure, and frequently suffered from diabetes and renal complications. Such was their condition that, at the time, they often withstood surgery badly.

Later, both surgery and radiotherapy improved, and now the cause of the acromegaly, a benign tumour of the pituitary, can usually be more easily dealt with.

Some patients, however, refuse surgery and radiotherapy, or for some reason are unsuitable for such treatment and need to rely upon an alternative. In other cases, post-operative investigations show that the growth hormone levels are still higher than they should be. With radiotherapy, full control of growth-hormone production can take a considerable time to become effective, and supplementary medical treatment may be necessary.

A fortunate 10 to 20 per cent of sufferers will respond to bromocriptine, which can be taken once daily by mouth, but others need to take somatostatin analogues. Until recently, the latter had to inject themselves three times a day. But a new preparation, Somatuline LA, which treats acromegaly very effectively, is now available. Those taking it need to inject themselves only once every 14 days, which enables them to lead a much more normal life and lessens the preoccupation they have inevitably had with their disease. The new injection is not only longer-lasting, but also rapidly controls the secretion of growth hormone.

Patients diagnosed in the early stages of acromegaly are unlikely to develop the same physical characteristics as Elsie's husband, and people such as he will become a memory, their condition seen only in textbooks. And in addition to being spared an unusual appearance, patients' lives will also be longer and less fraught, they will avoid diabetes, pancreatic and heart disease, as well as headaches, diminished libido, joint pains, loss of vision and general tiredness.

Further information from the Pituitary Foundation, 17/18 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS12 4NQ; 01454 201612

## The jabs that keep danger at bay

TRAVELLERS are immunised against typhoid, hepatitis A and, if they are young, hepatitis B, and children can be protected against whooping cough, diphtheria, measles, mumps, German measles and polio. Recent publicity has stressed the value of vaccination against meningitis A and C for certain groups of students, and people visiting parts of Africa and the Indian sub-continent should also have such injections.

Doctors have been less successful in persuading the elderly and the immuno-compromised to have a yearly anti-flu injection. Less well-known is that the same groups should have protection against pneumococcal pneumonia, a common cause of bacterial pneumonia.

Pneumonia may be the old person's friend who will, when the time is right, mercifully carry them across the Styx, but those of us who hope to delay the journey should have anti-pneumococcal injections.

## Why nicotine can be safe



Smokescreen: nicotine can help people to stop smoking

AS A result of nicotine-stained fingers and school-day jokes, nicotine is now regarded as being the nefarious component of tobacco. It is not, however, the dangerous constituent of cigarettes even if it is the substance that induces the addiction.

There are more than 4,000 harmful products in cigarette smoke, according to Dr Martin Jarvis of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, but it is the tars that cause cancers.

Specialists in preventive health met with MPs belonging to all-party groups interested in health and cancer prevention at the Commons recently to receive a report on the medicinal use of nicotine. The chairman, Professor Godfrey Fowler of Oxford University, called upon the Government and the medical professions to recognise "once and for all that nicotine replacement therapy is not only safe but is also the most effective aid to stopping smoking".

The doctors have appealed to the Government to make nicotine replacement therapy available on prescription.

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## What to do after a heart attack

WOULD General Sani Abacha still be alive and ruling Nigeria if he and his doctors had read and inwardly digested two recent missives from the British Heart Foundation (BHF)?

Research at Oxford University, supported by the British Heart Foundation and the Medical Research Council, has clearly demonstrated that immediate treatment with clot-busting drugs after a heart attack improves not only short-term but also long-term survival prospects.

Giving the high-tech streptokinase injection and an aspirin improves the likelihood that the patient will leave hospital and this advantage is still detectable ten years after the heart attack. Nor is the benefit confined to the young. Over-70s need clot-busting therapy just as much as younger sufferers. There is something to be said for those in danger of a heart attack always carrying aspirin.

New research from the British Heart Foundation, and national opinion polls, has shown that an inadequate number of defibrillators is available to the public. Death after a heart attack usually occurs not because a huge amount of heart muscle has been destroyed from lack of blood supply but because the heart has started to beat irregularly. A defibrillator is essential to restore the patient's regular heart beat. And 67 per cent of places where people gather, including football grounds, theatres, cinemas and shopping centres, have no such aid.

The BHF is appealing for £1 million to provide another 400 defibrillators. Most ambulances are now fitted with them so, when someone has a heart attack, the best thing a bystander can do is to call an ambulance. It is reassuring to have the benefit of the friendly GP's presence but what is really needed is a high-voltage shock from a computerised defibrillator.

## His arms hung so that his hands reached his knees

Patients diagnosed in the early stages of acromegaly are unlikely to develop the same physical characteristics as Elsie's husband, and people such as he will become a memory, their condition seen only in textbooks. And in addition to being spared an unusual appearance, patients' lives will also be longer and less fraught, they will avoid diabetes, pancreatic and heart disease, as well as headaches, diminished libido, joint pains, loss of vision and general tiredness.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY

# I'm

She doesn't do feelings, but Ann Widdecombe is passionate about causes, she tells Noreen Taylor. Photo: Chris Harris

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# 'I'm happy with my own company'

She doesn't do feelings, but Ann Widdecombe is passionate about causes, she tells Noreen Taylor.

Photograph by Chris Harris



With Labour in her sights, Ann Widdecombe is ready to do battle. Her blunt and brusque manner has earned her a fearsome reputation, even by Westminster standards

Ann Widdecombe, the new Shadow Health Secretary, rushes past two assistants into her office. "Got everything? Tea, coffee, water? Brewing it for you, are they? Good, good."

Imagine a bustling boarding-school matron crossed with a distracted colonel — a description that will probably provoke her to laugh her head off. Laughter is her way of deflecting the parodies and barbs she has suffered since entering Parliament 11 years ago.

Most have been directed at her appearance. Her square body is meant to be a great deal thinner, which is why her slender arms and legs seem so out of proportion to the rest of her.

"I used to be thin and I had this enormous appetite, which didn't seem to affect my shape. Now it does. So I still indulge myself, but I'd rather be round and jolly than thin and cross. And I still prefer a whisky and soda to a herbal tea."

Jacket off, elbows on table, perfunctory smile replaced by a frown, there is no bonding small talk, only a let's-get-on-with-it briskness that is, at least, honest since you sense that she would prefer to have her eyelashes pulled out rather than succumb to a series of personal questions.

Caricatured in numerous headlines as Doris Karloff, Miss Widdecombe has rarely basked in the soft light of a feel-good press. But she insists that she does not care. There is steel in her soul, and any sensitivity she may possess is protected by a carapace that allows her to proclaim with evangelical fervour on moral issues.

Her views — pro-nuclear defence, anti-abortion, anti-female priests — have attracted a bombardment of disapproval. She also became embroiled in the scandal of prisoners, supposedly handcuffed during labour. The "supposedly" is important because Miss Widdecombe wants to put the record straight.

She denies that it ever happened, dismissing reports as media misrepresentation. "Pregnant prisoners were restrained in public wards, but the handcuffs came off immediately labour started. I could

see each time a paper makes those accusations."

That incident occurred when she was Michael Howard's No 2 at the Home Office, a partnership that ended in acrimony. Miss Widdecombe famously denounced her boss over the way he handled the dismissal of the prisons director Derek Lewis, but she will not be drawn on that. "There were disagreements but that doesn't mean we can't work together now."

That is unusually diplomatic for a woman who headbutts her way through the throng, chin out, sleeves rolled up, ready to do battle with the next obstacle. This combative style doubtless attracted William Hague as he seeks to find a way out of the political wilderness the Tories now inhabit.

"Political wilderness?" comes the astonished retort. "We won't be in Opposition for very long. Yes, their majority is high, but it's the slope that's important, and the slope is a quite gentle one. It could go in the first puff of smoke and it's up to us to create a hurricane."

People will soon get fed up with a Government whose only reason for being in power is vote collecting."

A gold cross hangs from her neck, a crucifix is fixed to a wall, evidence of her conversion to Catholicism. On a facing wall are anti-abortion posters depicting dead foetuses. "I distrust politicians who don't have causes. There should be some issue they would go to the stake for, and mine is the unborn child."

Never a reflective person, she admits that it is the getting up and the getting things done that drives her. I guess correctly that she prefers being with men. "Male company is less demanding. It tends not to descend into the usual emotional outpourings. So, yes, I do prefer men."

But not as marital partners? "I'm much happier with my own company, knowing that I

can come home, close the door behind me and be alone, at peace, without any demands. I dare say there have been the odd moments when I would like to have had a shirtfront to cry on, although finding Mr Right has never seemed that important. Why do people go on about me not being married? Before female liberation no one thought it odd to be single. You became a governess or whatever, and those desires were accepted. So why is it considered so strange in these modern times?"

Independent, fearless, tough, even in Westminster, crammed as it is with arrogant, formidable personalities, Ann Widdecombe is considered a hardball player. Who was her role model? Her mother?

She shakes her head, mildly irritated. The question is too close to a topic involving feelings, and Miss Widdecombe doesn't do feelings. So she laughs at the suggestion that her mother might be responsible. "No, my mother is a softie," she says.

"A very kind woman. Hates arguments, especially political ones. Turns off the television if one starts. My father? Perhaps. Huge amount of drive there. Very ambitious. Long hours."

Clasping her hands under her chin, trying hard to describe herself, she says: "I was a very competitive child, single-minded, determined. Had to come first. But that's quietened as I've grown older. During my upbringing there was an attitude of encouragement. If I had said I wanted to go to outer space, my parents would have ensured a book on physics was provided."

"Hardness grows by degree. Politics does that, toughness you. I've been an MP for 11 years, and a minister for six and a half. Insults are like water off a duck's back."

Born in Bath in 1947, her father was a senior civil ser-

vant with the Admiralty, while her mother remained at home looking after Ann and her brother, Malcolm, now a Church of England canon.

"If I had married and had children, I would have been a full-time mother, like my own. This idea that you can look after constituents' interests, appear in the House and be a mother is impossible, no matter how efficient the domestic help might be."

A series of strict convent schools preceded Birmingham University, where she studied Latin, followed by Oxford where she read PPE. The Sixties, however, was not Miss Widdecombe's decade. Joining the Young Conservatives, she remained firmly and proudly out of step with the velvet-draped avant-garde who smoked dope, made love and marched against war.

"Hated all of that," she says, screwing up her face in distaste at the memory. "Hated it. Wild parties, barricades. Never been a pacifist."

She believes that that generation was responsible for

many of today's social ills: drugs, violence, the underclass. "I didn't feel out of step. Many of my friends felt the same. I did wear a miniskirt though, and hotpants. I even enjoyed Joan Baez's voice, but never the lyrics."

Politics and power were the words that lit Miss Widdecombe's fire. Jobs at Unilever

and London University filled the years until the day in 1987 when she won her seat in Maidstone, Kent. "Huge elation, one of the happiest days of my life. Been working for it since 1975, so you can understand that wonderful moment when I eventually signed into Parliament. Since then politics has been my life. It's a seven-day-a-week commitment."

Her unyielding views inevitably invite comparison with Baroness Thatcher. Yet she is surprisingly reticent to make the link, although she does tell a story that reveals the reason for a certain froideur towards her former leader.

"I had defended her on television, practically every night. I worked unstintingly on her behalf, for her causes. Then, on two occasions, I found myself next to her in the lobby. Not once did she turn and say thank you, or congratulations, or give any acknowledgement of my presence. "I was a great supporter, but she grew detached, became an island, and she shouldn't have. Success should never stop you noticing people breaking down on the hard shoulder and I think she had."

Did she harbour any desires to follow in Lady Thatcher's footsteps to become party leader, and prime minister?

"We have William Hague," she says firmly, "and to do anything other than support him would be dishonourable."

Aside from winning the next general election, there is little on the landscape that causes spasms of insecurity. Stress does not stop her sleeping. "After all, life is about being in the service of God, so I look forward to the hereafter, a time when all will be peaceful, with angels and harps."

Before the heavenly gates open she plans to retire from politics when she is in her early sixties. "I shan't be one of those who hang around Westminster. Shan't go on past my prime. I'll want the polar opposite of my current life, so it's off to Dartmoor, where I shall enjoy the moors, animals and some peace."

'Finding Mr Right has never seemed that important'

## Wanted: a nice, stable man for Ulrika

Will the humiliation of being battered by her boyfriend in a Paris bar finally prompt Ulrika Jonsson to put the brakes on a lifestyle that seems to be hurtling out of control? Yesterday the pretty Anglo-Swede ended her turbulent relationship with Stan Collymore, a decisive response to a grim episode. The Aston Villa forward assaulted Ulrika on Tuesday evening, displaying an accuracy with his kicks strikingly absent from the football field last season. He struck as Ulrika pulled and drank pints in the Auld Alliance bar, a mock-Scottish pub in Paris.

"I would like everyone to know that I am fine and I confirm that my relationship with Stan Collymore is now over," she said, in a statement read by her agent outside her home in Berkshire yesterday. The first day of the rest of her life, perhaps?

The past six months have passed for Ulrika in a whirl of sleaze and bad behaviour: emerging blurry-eyed from Chris Evans' London home the morning after a night out with the egregious broadcaster; swigging pints on stage with comedy duo Vic and Bob; posing in leather and handcuffs for the men's magazine Loaded; and being romantically linked to a series of inappropriate

If Ulrika Jonsson wants the domestic happiness that she claims to seek, why is she behaving like a lad? Jason Cowley reports

men, from bulky Gladiator Hunter to the dysfunctional Collymore.

Ulrika, once a wide-eyed weather girl on TV-am, seems to inhabit a twilight world of vulgar motivation and debased aspiration, one in which she delights in wearing any knickers during their interview.

How long ago, it now seems, that she worked as secretary for Bruce Gyngell, the founding chairman of TV-am, and enjoyed a brief friendship with Prince Edward, after meeting him at Henley.

Scarcely a week passes but we see her in her latest cleavage-revealing pose as she stumbles, on the celebrity trash party circuit, from one media event to another. All this attention seems to be working for her: her earnings for the past year, from



Ulrika Jonsson: yesterday, today and what about tomorrow?

television and advertising contracts, are estimated at about £2 million. Nice work if you can get it.

And yet, despite the ravages of her social life and the brittle glamour of her image, Ulrika talks, in interviews of settling down, of enjoying the kind of stable family life that she, as the daughter of a broken marriage, never knew.

When she was seven, her parents



Ulrika Jonsson: yesterday, today and what about tomorrow?

separated. For five years she lived with her father, a driving instructor, in a Stockholm flat, eventually being reunited with her mother, by now remarried and living in England.

She recalls these years as being miserable and confused; her father, who died last year, had a series of failed relationships. Will she ever find the happiness she seeks? "I feel very maternal, very family orientated," she recently told the journalist Andrew Billen. "You always try to achieve something you haven't had yourself, that lovely family atmosphere with you standing by the Aga with four kids round your ankles."

"At the moment I have one child and one Aga but I am working on it. It's a lovely thought but I realise if it happens it will happen within the parameters of my character. It won't

ever be the Waltons — but it might be a variation on the Waltons."

Is she serious? The feeling persists among her critics that she is not serious at all: that she is engaged in a kind of Faustian pact, pursuing celebrity at all costs — any cost. Looking at the semi-pornographic photo spread of her in the May issue of Loaded, and then at the photograph of her with John Turnbull, left, the television cameraman from whom she is divorced, you are struck by the change in her image and by the realisation that perhaps she once had the domestic happiness she now purportedly seeks.

The psychologist Dorothy Rowe believes that Ulrika's choice of men mirrors her erratic state of mind. "The problem for Ulrika, as for many women, is that she seems to be drawn to men who are exciting and dangerous. Such men are seldom reliable: they are too busy doing exciting things. If she wants to settle down and provide a stable family life for her son, then she is better off with a steadier kind of bloke. Buccaneers never make good husbands."

As for Ulrika, she said recently that "somehow, deep inside" she knew she was a survivor. One hopes, as she surveys the wreckage of another failed relationship, that she is right.



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# WAITING FOR GERHARD

Germany, and Europe, need the pretender to show mettle

This weekend's European Union summit at Cardiff promises to be the unspoken, "iceberg" issues. Chief among these is the fact that Cardiff is likely to be Helmut Kohl's last summit. If opinion polls are any guide, Germany's longest-serving Chancellor since Bismarck is heading for defeat in September's federal election. And until his fate and that of his 16-year-old coalition is resolved, not only Germany but the whole EU is effectively paralysed. In the long term, too, the importance of this German election for Britain and the rest of Europe can scarcely be exaggerated. That will be reflected in the coverage given to it by *The Times*.

Herr Kohl's challenger is Gerhard Schröder, the most formidable politician to emerge from the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) since the era of Helmut Schmidt and Willy Brandt. Herr Schröder's wounding of what he calls "the new centre" has already caused him to be dubbed the German Blair. It is certainly true that he shares the Labour leader's ability to appeal to middle-class voters with moderation and decisiveness, by contrast with the rigid ideological stasis and rule by committee of the party's old guard. Though older than his British counterpart, he projects a similarly youthful energy and is brave enough to offer strong leadership in a country that is instinctively consensual.

Critics from left and right accuse Herr Schröder of a glib populism that masks intellectual and political weakness. Sceptics insist that the comparison with Mr Blair is too flattering to a man who lacks the Prime Minister's track record of party reforms, and that in government real power would stay in the hands of his left-wing rival, the SPD chairman Oskar Lafontaine. It is as if Tony Blair had been selected to fight the election by an oligarchy of old Labour barons led by Neil Kinnock.

So far the campaign has gone well for Herr Schröder, who has led in the polls throughout, though the gap has slipped to seven points and is likely to narrow further. No less crucial to the outcome will be the showing of the three small parties: the liberal Free Democrats (FDP), the Greens

and the former East German communists (PDS). All are now in danger of slipping below the five percent threshold needed to gain representation in the Bundestag.

In Germany unpopular governments have been ejected, not directly by the electorate, but by the collapse of coalitions. Every change of government since 1949 has been triggered by a switch in allegiance of the FDP, and there are signs that its leading light, the Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, may have lost patience with the Chancellor. This week's Kohl-Chirac letter to Mr Blair, ruling out any evolution of the EU into a "central European state", was drafted without consultation with Herr Kinkel.

So far, however, the campaign has given little evidence that either side has adequate answers to the great issues facing the German people: unemployment (which is at last falling, but still 4.2 million); Europe and the single currency; the eastern Länder, immigration and neo-Nazism. It is too soon to write off Chancellor Kohl, but his late conversion to Euroscepticism is no more convincing than the transparent attempt by his Bavarian Finance Minister Theo Waigel to whip up a "reds under the bed" hysteria.

From the British perspective, Herr Schröder at present looks attractive: not just because his north-west German roots imply a cultural affinity with Britain no less powerful than Herr Kohl's with France, but because he alone, with his open-minded pragmatism, seems to have grasped the magnitude of the task ahead. Herr Kohl's impressive heir apparent, Wolfgang Schäuble, shares Herr Schröder's missionary zeal to restore Germany's economic and political status; and the election could lead to a grand coalition led by these two men, with Herr Kohl stepping aside more or less gracefully. That result, however, would inevitably lead to a further growth of left and right-wing extremism; and would soon prove unstable. Far better for Germany — and Europe — if there is a clear choice in September. Helmut Kohl is a known quantity; Gerhard Schröder has yet to prove to Germany — and Europe — that he can offer more than Kohl plus charisma.

# FRANK NOT FRUGAL

Baroness Symons should realise honesty is her best policy

In Opposition, the Labour Party prided itself on its presentation. How surprising, therefore, that these skills seem to have deserted it in government. Whenever ministers have made mistakes, they have followed a destructive pattern of denial, cover-up and reluctant release of information that, far from limiting damage, has exacerbated it.

The latest of these blunders is Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, junior minister at the Foreign Office. Her sin is to have been frugal with the truth in her answers to questions in the House of Lords. Now it looks as if she will have to explain herself before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

According to Sir John Kerr, her permanent secretary, Lady Symons was told on March 10 that Customs and Excise were investigating whether the Sandline company had breached the UN arms embargo against Sierra Leone. Yet, asked the next day by Lord Avebury whether Sandline's activities would be investigated, she sidestepped the question, omitting to mention that an investigation had already started. Why?

Later, on May 11, in answer to a private notice question, Lady Symons said she was glad to have the opportunity to give the Lords "as full a picture as I am able at this stage. We have consistently stressed the Government's intention to discover the full facts surrounding this case and to be as open as possible." This honourable intention did not, however, last for long.

Asked by Lord Moynihan when she had first known of Sandline's involvement, the minister again sidestepped the question in

as evasive a way as she could without actually lying. She said she had seen the newspaper reports shortly before March 10. "These were allegations but I would not expect to see detailed papers. As the whole House will know, the minister that deals with these questions in the Lords is briefed for Lords' debates and I would not expect to see, and nor indeed would it be proper and right for me to see, papers which are meant for other ministers in their own areas of responsibility."

As well as failing to admit that she had been briefed on March 10, Lady Symons gave a very odd account of her life as a minister in the Lords. As the whole House knows, Lords ministers have to be generalists, able to answer for every area of their department's business. She might not see detailed papers on every subject but it would be both proper and right that she should be well briefed before questions and debates.

Lady Symons is new to politics and new to government. Her answers may have been genuine mistakes, the misjudged actions of an inexperienced minister. If so, she should admit as much: she may be surprised by the extent of public sympathy such candour would arouse. So far, though, no explanation has been forthcoming. Until it is, the affair will rumble on, damaging her reputation as well as the Government. It is time ministers learnt that it is in their interests, as well as the country's, that they should be as frank as possible as early as possible, not only about their policies, but about their mistakes too.

# THE SEWAGE CRISIS

Sanity must prevail over sanitation in Minsk

Ambassadors have to put up with the quirks of many a colourful local ruler. But rarely are they threatened with having their homes drowned in sewage or suffer the indignity of watching the gates to their residence welded shut by the host country. In Belarus, however, almost anything is possible nowadays. And had President Lukashenko not given the diplomatic corps a week's extension to his eviction notice, ambassadors from Britain, America, Russia and a further 19 countries would have taken the first plane out of Minsk yesterday and left in a collective huff.

To offend one ambassador might be considered bravado; to offend every resident in a diplomatic compound, break the Vienna Convention and lock the American, French and Italian envoys out of their homes looks like a demerch too far. The Belarusians like a demerch too far. The 50-year-old has blamed the drains: the 50-year-old complex is in need of urgent repairs to the utilities, they insist. And the Soviet-era spokesman suggested that the sewage system would collapse, the pipes burst and the would collapse, the pipes burst and the immediately evacuated.

Coincidentally, the compound happens to be in a pleasant pine forest on the outskirts of Minsk adjacent to Mr Lukashenko's own residence. Stalinist leaders are often uncomfortable living next to diplomats: they imagine foreign telescopes trained on them from the

early morning bowl of kasha until the late-night draining of the vodka bottle dregs. From the fastness of the Kremlin, Stalin used to gaze in fury across the Moscow river at the Union flag flying defiantly over the roccoco British Embassy. He issued one eviction order after another, but failed to budge the British from the palace a sugar merchant once built for his mistress. Mr Lukashenko, angered by diplomats whose cocktail chatter is laced with denunciations of his caprice and megalomania, wants to be rid of the lot of them.

Things were easier to order on the collective farm where Mr Lukashenko used to work — until politics went to his head. It was a bold comrade who challenged the party quotas on turnips and potatoes. He wants to keep this cosy Soviet harmony in the little state he now controls — none of this messy privatisation or impudent press questioning, and certainly none of the interference from busybody human rights activists. And so in the interest of social peace, he has decreed that anyone insulting the President now faces a five-year prison sentence.

The Vienna Convention, however, envisages somewhat more sophisticated diplomatic intercourse than a bailiff's eviction notice. It enjoins on Mr Lukashenko a simple remedy: mend the drains and unlock the gates and the ambassadors will stay in Minsk. Sanity must prevail over sanitation.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## EMU rebuffed by business leaders

From the Chairman and Council of Business for Sterling

Sir, We write as businessmen to support a new campaign dedicated to setting out the business arguments against British participation in the European single currency — Business for Sterling.

The single market is important for British business and it is good news that the introduction of EMU coincides with economic recovery on the Continent. Nevertheless, we would urge the British public to discount the myth that the great majority of the business community favours early UK membership.

Like many other businessmen and women we believe that EMU carries particular problems for Britain that are not shared by our European partners — many of which are already in *de facto* economic and monetary union with each other. Our main concerns are as follows:

Whereas the Bank of England runs our monetary policy according to the UK's needs, the European Central Bank would decide rates for the whole of the EMU area, of which the UK would merely be a region.

The Treasury's freedom to manage revenue and spending would be constrained within EMU by the "stability pact" and the growing momentum of European tax harmonisation.

A single currency presupposes a higher degree of labour mobility between the UK and the rest of the EU than is likely to exist for some time.

If the UK's economy mirrored that of the EMU area we would be less concerned. But it does not. The widespread use of variable rate mortgages makes Britons uniquely sensitive to interest rate policy. Moreover, the British and continental business cycles are out of step (as they have often been in recent years, notably at the time of the ERM crisis). Any convergence would probably be unsustainable, because of well documented structural differences. Indeed there are inherent weaknesses in centralisation, with the threat of bureaucracy and over-regulation.

EMU is essentially a project of political integration. Yet the EU's own political institutions are not yet mature or accountable enough to act as a safety valve if, as many continental economists predict, EMU results in regions of persistent unemployment.

Even within the core of the EMU area, it will take at least one full economic cycle before the outcome of EMU is clearer. For Britain, with its special trading, investment and financial patterns, the risk of jeopardising our competitive edge through excessive integration remains too high to be acceptable.

Yours etc,  
MARSH,  
Chairman, Business for Sterling,  
JOHN CRAVEN,  
Chairman, Lonrho plc,  
MICHAEL EDWARDS,  
HANSON,  
STANLEY KALMS,  
Chairman, Dixons Group plc,  
RODNEY LEACH,  
Director, Jardine Matheson,  
TIM MELVILLE-ROSS,  
Director-General, Institute of Directors,  
BRIAN PRIME,  
Executive Director,  
Federation of Small Businesses,  
WOLFSON of SUNNINGDALE,  
Chairman, Great Universal Stores,  
YOUNG of GRAFFHAM,  
Chairman, Young Associates Ltd,  
Business for Sterling,  
26 Millbank Court,  
John Islip Street, SW1P 4LG,  
June 10.

## Proposal to 'tax' household rubbish

From Mr John Stevens, MEP for Thames Valley (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, As an MEP, I have become familiar with rubbish in many countries, but nothing has prepared me for the latest job-creation scheme, proposed by Mr Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister (report, later editions, June 9).

The opportunities for householders employing night workers to dump their excess rubbish on their neighbour's doorstep or in the street are likely to be modest compared with the probable scale of a new corps of rubbish detectives to clamp down on those wishing to avoid a "variable waste tax".

Surely any worthwhile recycling scheme would, over time, pay for itself and be a suitable subject for a Private Finance Initiative?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN STEVENS,  
39 St James's Place, SW1A 1NS,  
June 9.

these, but only these. Because the sacks are sturdy and are charged for, householders tend to compact as much waste as possible into each one, and take bulky paper, glass and aluminium cans for separate recycling. I was told that the sacks themselves are cleaned and used repeatedly.

Sincerely,  
GEOFFREY NEGUS,  
2 Heathcote Avenue,  
Solithull, West Midlands B91 1QL.

From Lieutenant-Colonel A. P. M. Hole

Sir, The government proposals regarding future charges for the collection of domestic rubbish would seem, on the face of it, to be fair enough. However, much of the rubbish generated by domestic users is probably made up of the junk mail which pours through our letterboxes and goes straight into the bin; and quite a proportion of the remainder will be the surplus packaging in which so many products are wrapped.

In the case of the former, this household will do what it should have done ages ago — mark it "Return to sender" and re-post it. As to the latter, perhaps the answer is to unwrap the goods in the shop and add the wrappings to their rubbish.

Yours sincerely,  
A. P. M. HOLE,  
39 Vogan Close,  
Reigate, Surrey RH2 8AT,  
ahole@aol.com  
June 10.

## British design in a rage over beige

From the Group Managing Director of Moss Bros Group plc

Sir, The British suit market, after the US, is the largest in the world, and Englishmen are considered to be the benchmark for how to look good in an elegant suit.

Royal Ascot, Glynedebourne, garden parties, the City of London, universities, Mansion House dinners, university balls and weddings all demonstrate to the world the tradition and variety of the suit, whether it be lounge, morning or dinner.

Our world-famous Savile Row look is what every designer attempts to achieve. It is discreet in colour, it flatters the figure, accentuates the waist and lengthens the profile and represents the perception, to people abroad, of Englishmen. What is more, this quintessential English look is very fashionable.

Paul Smith, Richard James and Oswald Boatem are amongst this country's most respected new-wave formal menswear designers. They have, between them, revived English tailoring and created an interest in formal dressing that is gathering momentum all over the world. They are the opinion formers, and they are English.

So why should the FA and the England football coach reject the professional, and correct, advice of Paul Smith (report, "Players get the blues over Hoddle's beige", June 9)? Sadly, and especially in this era of design awareness and acceptability, this is so symptomatic of our historic lack of respect for the pioneers of fashion, that it has all but destroyed our clothing manufacturing industry in the UK.

Soccer is the most popular sport on Earth and this will be the biggest ever World Cup, watched by the world's largest TV audience.

It should have been navy for a "very cool Britannia".

Yours faithfully,  
ROWLAND J. GEE,  
Group Managing Director,  
Moss Bros Group plc,  
8 St Johns Hill,  
London SW11 1SA,  
June 9.

## Where the power lies in Tory party

From Mr Julian Grainger

Sir, In describing his recent experience of the centralised, top-down candidate selection process, Winston Churchill (article, June 4) praises the historic autonomy of Conservative Associations as having "guarded against the concentration of too much power at the centre". Unfortunately, the new Conservative Party constitution, announced by Lord Parkinson at a party meeting in Harrogate last March, does away with that autonomy in a number of ways.

The constitution permits the party's new central board to call constituency special general meetings whenever it likes and permits the board to appoint constituency officers "as it shall think fit". It provides the board with the opportunity to seize constituency assets built up by generations of local Conservatives; and it prevents constituencies from changing their own rules, having agreed to "be bound by the Constitution of the Party".

Sadly, the laudable aspirations in William Hague's *A Fresh Future* have no prospect of being met. For example, his declared aim of unifying the party's main elements appears to have been thwarted by a constitution that removes the constituencies' autonomy while barely mentioning the MPs or Central Office.

Conservative Associations are being ejected into accepting the new constitution while the promise contained in *Blueprint for Change* (the discussion document issued last summer) that "A special conference will bring together all wings of the Party to vote on the changes" remains unfulfilled. There has been no such conference.

William Hague should distance himself from the centralising apparatus before the Conservative Party turns off existing and potential members alike.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIAN GRAINGER  
(Vice-Chairman, Orpington Conservative Association, 1986-87),  
30 Hornesad Road, Chelsfield,  
Orpington, Kent BR6 6HW.

From Mr Brendan Anderson

Sir, Like Sir George Gardiner (letter, June 5), I attended the Conservatives' South-East region European candidate selection meeting at the London Arena on May 31.

I, too, noted the uniformity of backing for William Hague's policy on Europe, and I also noted the warmth with which the meeting treated candidates from both the former "Eurosceptic" and the "Europhile" camps.

I say former because I gained the distinct impression that the Conservative Party, as represented by the candidates and assembled members, was writing around a pragmatic course of action.

Those who would seek to reopen the wounds of the old Parliament should take note.

Yours faithfully,  
BRENDAN ANDERSON  
(Member, Beaconsfield Constituency Conservative Association Executive),  
18 Wattleton Road,  
Beaconsfield,  
Buckinghamshire HP9 1TS,  
June 5.

## Battle of the Medway

From Dr Martin Henig

Sir, The news that a memorial commemorating the Battle of the Medway in AD43 has been set up in Kent (report, June 8) marks the growing interest in Roman Britain, and is welcome.

However, the site of the memorial perpetuates a distorted version of that year's events, which probably centred around the Selsey/Chichester region of West Sussex; these events were chiefly concerned with the liberation of the Atrebrates from the tribes north of the Thames. Eventually, with Roman help, a highly successful kingdom under the "Great King" Togidubus (also known as Cogidubus) flourished from Kent to Somerset.

Togidubus, who probably lived in the Roman palace at Fishbourne, is commemorated at Chichester by a dedication of a temple of Neptune and Minerva. He may well have been the builder of the temple of Sulis Minerva at Bath on the western boundary of his domains.

The efforts of the British themselves were far more decisive than those of the Roman army.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN HENIG  
(Visiting lecturer in Roman Art),  
University of Oxford,  
Institute of Archaeology,  
38 Beaumont Street,  
Oxford OX1 2PG,  
June 9.

From Mr Benjamin Harnwell

Sir, I think that most Conservatives will be appalled by Sir George Gardiner's admission to the selection meeting for candidates in next year's European elections.

This is the same George Gardiner who opposed a Conservative candidate in Reigate in the general election and who undermined the leadership of John Major.

He is the kind of person responsible for the size of Labour's majority. He has been rejected by his party and the electorate.

Yours faithfully,  
BEN HARNWELL,  
13 Hogarth House,  
Erasmus Street,  
Westminster, SW1P 4HS,  
June 5.

From Mr David M. Browne

Sir, Your report is mistaken in suggesting that the Roman forces of Aulus Plautius faced Cunobelinus at the battle on the Medway.

Cunobelinus had died before the invasion, and it was the expansionist policies of his two sons and successors, Caractacus and Togidubus, that, in part, provided the excuse for the Emperor Claudius's aggression against the Britons. It was they who faced Plautius at the Medway.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID M. BROWNE,  
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales,  
Crown Building,  
Plas Crug, Aberystwyth,  
Dyfed SY23 1NJ,  
June 8.

## Livingstone for mayor

From Dr Mark Lister Patterson

Sir, William Rees-Mogg (article, "Will Ken be made mayor or martyr?", June 8) is absolutely right to draw attention to the qualities of Ken Livingstone as a possible future elected Mayor of London.

During my time as a planning chairman on the GLC in the late 1970s he was the minority leader for the Labour Party on the planning committee and showed himself to be surprisingly free of party baggage when trying to deal with the many difficulties that were within our remit. He had a huge ability to master detail and on many occasions prevented the council making a fool of itself even though this might have been politically convenient to him.

I am sure Ken Livingstone would bring some irreverent joy to "Cool Britannia" and soften the remote "presidential" style of Blair's Government, to which Peter Riddell rightly draws attention in his article on the same page.

I hope Ken gets his chance and new Labour make use of a very agreeable and successful public figure.

Yours etc,  
MARK LISTER PATTERSON,  
(Conservative Member of GLC, 1969-82),  
Wolverton Manor,  
Shorwell, Newport,  
Isle of Wight PO30 3JS,  
June 8.

## Chancellor's 'war chest'

From Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP for Gordon (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I must take issue with the sentiments expressed in Peter Riddell's article, "Why Brown is right to adopt his iron guise" (June 3), which dismisses out of hand Liberal Democrat figures showing that the Chancellor is accumulating a "war chest" of funds.

Whether or not the Chancellor is conducting an appropriate economic policy is a matter of analysis and opinion, on which there are sharply differing views.

Indeed, your own distinguished economic commentator, Anatole Kal-

etsky, writing earlier this year (*Economic View*, January 23) said: "There can be no more doubt about it. Gordon Brown will have a 'war chest' worth tens of billions of pounds before the next general election... All these figures go a long way to justify the charges about Labour's election war chest levelled by Malcolm Bruce."

I do not ask Peter Riddell to agree with Anatole Kaletsky and me, but he should at least acknowledge the scope for different views.

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM BRUCE  
(Liberal Democrat Treasury Spokesman),  
House of Commons,  
June 3.

## Pots and kettles

From Mr Peter Hitchens

Sir, The Sports Minister, Tony Banks, describes me as "an objectionable lot" (*Diary*, June 9). This has given me an idea for a new parlour game called "Pot and Kettle" in which scores are awarded for unconscious hilarity.

For example: Adolf Hitler denounces you as "aggressive and intolerant" (20 points); Dr Ian Paisley says you are "inflexible" (18 points); Richard Nixon opines that you are "shifty" (15 points); Neil Kinnock complains that you are "long-winded" (12 points); Lord George-Brown puts it about that you "have a drink problem" (10 points), and so on.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER HITCHENS  
(Assistant Editor), *The Express*,  
245 Blackfriars Road, SE1 9UX,  
June 9.

## Fully rounded

From Mr Gerald Harper

Sir, The University of Aberdeen's idea for "rounded" education is nothing new (report, June 2; letters, June 9).

In 1950, Cambridge University advised me to leave my medical studies and do my National Service "to become a more fully rounded human being" before returning to Trinity College. In those two years off the escalator of life I decided to be an actor instead of a doctor.

As I sat down for my first class at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, I found myself sitting next to a 17-year-old Joan Collins. "Hallo," I thought, "I think I have done the right thing here!" I still think so.

Yours,  
GERALD HARPER,  
c/o London Management,  
24 Noel Street, W1V 3RB.

## Visible extras

From Dr Georges Ware

Sir, Browsing through the Thomson holiday brochure I was intrigued by the Hotel Madeira Palacio.

The brochure claims that "all rooms have cable TV, radio, telephone, bathrobes, hairdryer, safe and minibar. Superior rooms have partial view of a gas bottling plant approximately 400m to the right of the hotel."

Worth seeing, but even with the brochure's speculation that it will not detract from our "overall enjoyment of the scenery", perhaps not worth going to see?

Yours etc,  
GEORGES WARE,  
95 Cranbrook Road, Bristol BS6 7BZ,  
georges.ware@bris.ac.uk  
June 10.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



OBITUARIES

SIR DAVID ENGLISH

Sir David English, Editor of the Daily Mail, 1971-92, and Chairman of Associated Newspapers since 1992, died on June 10 aged 67. He was born on May 26, 1931.

Sir David English was the longest-serving, and probably most influential, newspaper editor of his generation. The creator of the modern Daily Mail, he played a significant part in Margaret Thatcher's rise to power in 1979 and went on to become one of the most powerful figures in her journalistic coterie, proving one of her wildest and most effective supporters through three general election campaigns.

His moment of greatest triumph came, however, in 1981 when, at considerable risk, he successfully fought a libel action brought by the Unification Church after he had run a campaign against it as "the church that breaks up families". The case lasted 100 days and 117 witnesses gave evidence.

Before committing his paper to fighting the action, English had asked his lawyers how much it might cost if the paper were to lose to the so-called Moonies. He was told at least a million pounds. In the event, the jury found in favour of the newspaper and the Unification Church was ordered to pay costs of about £400,000.

Another high point in his career came in 1982 when he was called in by his proprietor Lord Rothermere to rescue the Mail on Sunday, which had had a disastrous launch. With typical flair and panache, English turned the paper round in a matter of months so that it was able, in time, to challenge and eventually beat its long-established rival, the Sunday Express.

English's nadir, by contrast, came in 1977 when the Daily Mail led with a "world exclusive" that claimed the nationalised British Leyland car firm had been paying bribes to win overseas orders and that Lord Ryder, then chairman of the National Enterprise Board, had written to the company's chief executive, Alex Park, approving a "slush fund".

English was at the relevant time heavily involved on behalf of the Mail's parent company, Associated Newspapers, in discussions on possible takeover bids involving other Fleet Street newspapers, but, as the Editor, he took full responsibility for what he described in a front-page apology as "a grave journalistic error".

He informed his readers that he had offered his resignation to Lord Rothermere, but that it had been rejected. "I am glad it was because I want to go on editing the Daily Mail and there is much to do in the wake of this present misfortune," he wrote. The paper had to pay substantial undisclosed damages to both Lord Ryder and Alex Park.

Members of the Labour Government claimed that he had published the story to bring them down and one Labour MP called for him to be arrested and tried for sedition. English went some way towards salvaging his reputation by submitting to a tough interrogation on the Panorama programme in which he dispelled any idea that he had acted deliberately.

David English was brought up on the South Coast and was educated at Bournemouth School and arrived in Fleet Street via the Evening Echo, Bournemouth, and The News, Portsmouth. He was on the staff of the Daily Mirror from 1951 to 1953 and became features editor of the Daily Sketch in 1956.

He then had a brief spell as a foreign correspondent in New York for the old Sunday Dispatch in 1959, from which Lord Beaverbrook recruited him to the Daily Express the following year. He was Washington correspondent of the Express from 1961 to 1963, chief American correspondent from 1963 to 1965 and foreign editor from 1965 to 1967, becoming an associate editor in 1967 and holding that title until 1969.

His American experience produced a book Divided They Stand (1969), a competent account of the 1968 presidential election, which he had covered. English had been promised the editorship of the Express, but when, unexpectedly, he was offered the top job at the Daily Sketch, then the smallest circulation tabloid in Fleet Street, he accepted it, figuring that an editorship in hand was worth any number of promises. He succeeded the flamboyant Howard French. The tabloid Sketch had been acquired from Kemsley Newspapers in 1953 but had trouble in establishing a consistent identity. English injected more foreign news, longer feature articles and more "in depth" reporting in an attempt to move it upmarket.

Meanwhile, the Daily Mail had failed to retain the readers it had picked up from the closure of the News Chronicle in 1961. Throughout the 1960s both papers were incurring heavy losses through rising production costs and a downturn in advertising revenue, and in 1971 the decision was taken to amalgamate the two papers and relaunch them as a tabloid Daily Mail with English taking over as editor. The subsequent wave of redundancies became known as "the night of the long white envelopes".



Lord Rothermere reminded guests at a gala dinner that the Daily Mail was the creation of one man — Sir David English

English believed passionately in family values long before the phrase had ever been uttered by John Major and espoused them daily in his paper. His vision for Britain tended at times, however, to verge on the extreme, especially when dealing with minorities. The Mail's campaign against the killers of Stephen Lawrence came after his editorship had ended. Stories about sick and dying people were also discouraged. He once famously told a picture editor that he did not wish to see pictures of people who did not look healthy in his paper unless it was absolutely necessary.

In the office, he surrounded himself with a small group of trusted colleagues who were described as being more enthusiasts than critics and rarely questioned his judgments, particularly the sudden enthusiasms to which he was given and which he expected others to share with similar zeal. He seldom raised his voice but, when he felt wronged or let down, he subjected the culprits to an icy, menacing glare which almost always presaged professional oblivion.

His policy of "creative tension" involved pitting his executives and writers against each other so that a political as much as a journalistic instinct was vital for long-term survival during his regime. With a rare sense of self-parody, he once turned up at a farewell party dressed in a Nazi uniform.

English once recalled: "I was always very critical of journalists and departmental editors working for me who would say 'It's not great, but it's OK'. That's when I would explode with rage, sometimes making people cry, because that kind of phrase would drive me mad. I would be very angry with people who would put things in the paper where

there were still glaring inconsistencies and mistakes and questions unanswered, and I would remove those people if they didn't raise their game."

Noticing how editors who courted publicity tended sooner or later to come unstuck, as Derek Jameson did at the Daily Express and Andrew Neil at The Sunday Times, he eschewed personal publicity, and appeared embarrassed when, in 1996, it was reported that he had stood up and applauded a speech given by the Labour leader, Tony Blair. No great fan of John Major's Conservative Party, he once wrote a mischievous diary in The Spectator in which he contemplated the unthinkable: the Daily Mail supporting Labour at the next election. (It never happened.)

He took the view that the best editors had to be their own men and should never be beholden to their managements. Accordingly, while still in his thirties, he set out, when on the Express, to make himself financially independent by setting up a free-sheet newspaper, which, over several years, he built up into a chain of 26 which he sold to Rupert Murdoch for what he called "quite a large sum of money".

English was in person every bit as neat and tidy as the paper he created, wearing immensely expensive Italian suits and, for a time, dying his short greying hair an inky black. Whereas other editors of his generation mostly burnt themselves out or disappeared into obscurity with their pay-offs, English, in 1992, astounded Fleet Street by announcing that he was to relinquish his editorship to succeed Lord Rothermere as chairman of Associated Newspapers. Rothermere, who had become a close personal friend of English, stayed on, to all intents and purposes in the same role, as Chairman of the Daily Mail and General Trust.

The moves had been precipitated by English's heir apparent, Paul Dacre, threatening to leave the group to become Editor of The Times. Retaining him turned out to be a shrewd move, since Dacre went on to prove a highly energetic and successful editor in terms of building up the paper's circulation. However, as Lord Rothermere pointedly reminded his guests at a gala dinner in 1996 after the paper was named Newspaper of the Year, the Daily Mail was finally the creation of one man and his name was Sir David English.

English was one of few newspapermen to become a multi-millionaire. In 1997 alone, his salary was reported to have exceeded £800,000. He put much back into the profession, however, not least through his work for the Press Complaints Commission and the National Council for the Training of Journalists. He personally sat on panels to select entrants for schemes administered by the latter organisation.

He denied being personally ambitious. "Every assignment was important to me and, frankly, whenever I sought promotion it was basically because of the irritation and anger I felt that the people over me were not actually seeing the things I wrote in the right way, as I saw it, and were interfering through their editing and damaging my efforts. This was the thing that drove me to get to the top and make sure it was done the way it should be done."

He was knighted by a grateful Mrs Thatcher in 1982. In 1997 he was appointed chairman of ITN, Away from Fleet Street he enjoyed skiing and sailing. He supported his wife Irene through her long battle with Parkinson's disease. He is survived by her, a son and two daughters.

PROFESSOR MICHAEL WILKS

Michael Wilks, former Professor of Medieval History at Birkbeck College in the University of London, died of a heart attack after a long illness on May 11 aged 67. He was born on August 13, 1930.

A BRILLIANT analytical mind, an encyclopaedic knowledge, and a deep and intuitive understanding of his period made Michael Wilks an outstanding historian. If he had written nothing else, The Problem of Sovereignty in the Later Middle Ages (1963) would have been sufficient to establish his reputation. This pioneering work explored the political ideas of Augustinus (Triumphus of Ancona (d. 1328) and his contemporaries on the nature and location of sovereignty. Despite its daunting length and the seeming obscurity of its subject, the book was reprinted within a year. The mastery and clarity with which he conveyed the subtleties of medieval ideas has ensured its place as a standard work.

The stream of articles and papers he produced covered thinkers from St Augustine of Hippo to John Locke, but the preoccupation of his later career was with John Wyclif. He aimed to demonstrate that Wyclif's political philosophy was based, somewhat unexpectedly, on a firm grasp of papal theory, and to show how apparent contradictions in his ideas could be reconciled. For him, Wyclif was no ivory-tower academic, but a potential revolutionary who had formed his own band of followers and who tried to forge relations with royalty and aristocracy for his own political ends. Wilks's death deprives us of his keenly anticipated biography.

Born in Bedford, Michael John Wilks was educated at Brighton College. After service with the RAF in Cyprus, he read history at Trinity College, Cambridge, and subsequently did research under the supervision of Walter Ullmann. The rewards of a research fellowship at Trinity and the Prince Consort Medal followed. He was to return to Cambridge in 1978 to give the 100th series of Birkbeck Lectures on ecclesiastical history.

From 1957 he lectured in history at Birkbeck College, where he became a reader in the history of political thought in 1967, and professor of medieval history in 1974, until his retirement in 1992.

Michael Wilks had a flair for administration, demonstrated as head of the history department, and in his service as dean of the faculty of arts (1981-83). He was chairman of the board of studies in history and an elected representative on the university senate. At the Institute of Historical Research, he helped to run the popular postgraduate seminar on the history of political ideas.

Above all, he loved teaching, and was deeply committed to the education of part-time mature students, whose needs he understood instinctively. He was an inspirational, often amusing, teacher and a demanding tutor. He could impart deeply complex ideas with a clarity and organisation which made them intelligible. His love of the medieval period ignited in his students what he called "that warm glow of enthusiasm".

He also had a unique ability to rescue from the ashes of an essay or thesis chapter thoughts which the writer had not realised were important, and to use them constructively. He gave unstintingly of his time. He was always ready to see the uninvited student who knocked on his door, ready with academic encouragement or advice, ready to draw on his calm good sense in a crisis or to use his gift for creating laughter.

Outside the university he was a founder member of the Ecclesiastical History Society, to which he gave equally devoted service. He was its president for 1985-86, and for many years its treasurer. The witty anecdotes with which he introduced his financial reports became the highlight of the society's business meetings. He edited three of its volumes, and was the instigator of a very successful international conference on Ockham and Wyclif. He was also a valued member, and again treasurer, of the British sub-commission of the Commission internationale d'histoire ecclésiastique comparée, and gave distinguished papers at its European meetings.

He and his wife, Stella, made their Carshalton home a place of generous hospitality and warm friendship. Michael Wilks took a delight in researching Carshalton's history, most recently that of its gunpowder mills. He also worked tirelessly for the Carshalton Society, whose newsletter he compiled and contributed to substantially over many years.

His wife and two sons survive him.



Michael Wilks on a visit with the Ecclesiastical History Society to Rievaulx Abbey in Yorkshire

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NEWS

Business chiefs fight the euro

A multimillion pound campaign to persuade voters to block British membership of the European single currency will be launched today by the leaders of a hundred blue-chip companies.

A £1 million fighting fund has been set up by the backers of "Business for Sterling", which is chaired by the former Labour Cabinet minister Lord Marsh. The group will become the focus of the "save the pound" movement in the referendum on whether Britain should adopt the euro.

Scotland kick off with heartbreak

Scotland came to a standstill as the World Cup began, predictably, with heartbreaking defeat against the favourites Brazil. The champions needed an own goal for a 2-1 victory, continuing Scotland's run of bad luck.

Doctor accused

A family doctor at the centre of a mercy-killing controversy has been accused of murdering an elderly cancer patient.

Elgin Marbles hope

Laser technology could recreate the remaining Elgin Marbles so that they could be returned to the Parthenon.

Archer doubts

A former newspaper editor threw doubts on Lord Archer's account of his involvement in a share deal that became the subject of an insider inquiry.

Homeless teenagers

Tourists flocking to the holiday cottages of rural Cumbria are forcing homeless teenagers to sleep rough.

Parachute failed

The man who saved Richard Branson died after a borrowed parachute failed to open properly, an inquest was told.

Kohl plays rough

The German election is turning dirty as Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, tries to exclude rivals from the spotlight.

Coma girl's recovery

Doctors allowed an unconscious student to go without food because they were convinced she was going to die.

Klan men charged

Three men with suspected ties to the Ku Klux Klan were charged with chaining a disabled black man to a pick-up truck and dragging him for two miles.

Mountain challenge

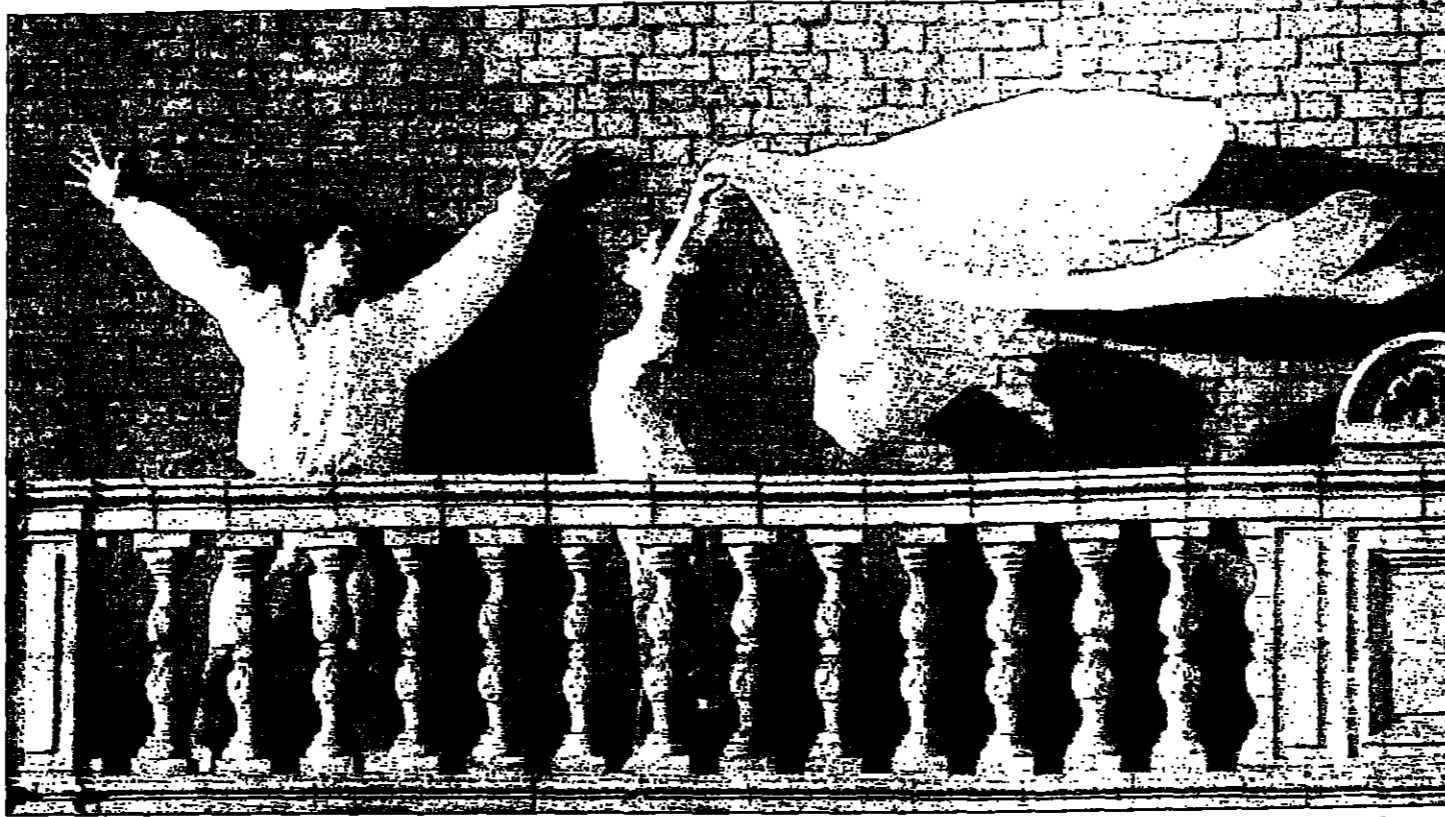
A family doctor told how she fought to become the first woman to scale one of the world's most dangerous mountains.

Border war rages

Ethiopia and Eritrea re-opened a western front in their border conflict, accusing one another of starting the latest round.

Liver transplant woman gives birth

A young woman whose life was saved when she received the transplanted liver of a seven-year-old British boy murdered by the Mafia has given birth to a boy, doctors in Rome said. They believe that she is one of only three women to have a baby after such a transplant. Maria Pia Pedala Bettino has named the child Nicholas in memory of the dead boy.



Balcony scene: Roberto Bolle and Tamara Rojo taking a break from rehearsals of Romeo and Juliet at the Albert Hall yesterday.

BUSINESS

Rates confusion: Abbey National lifted mortgage rates by 0.25 per cent in response to last week's increase in base rate. It was disclosed that members of the Monetary Policy Committee voted overwhelmingly of leaving base rates unchanged in May.

Asian turmoil: Asian financial markets faced a renewed onslaught after the Japanese yen dove to a seven year low against the dollar, reviving fears that China could be forced to devalue.

Top job: Standard Chartered, the banking group with its roots embedded deep in British colonial history, has appointed an Indian national to lead it. Rana Talwar, 50, will be the first Indian to take the helm at a FTSE-100 company.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 32.4 to 5987.4. The pound rose to 104.3 from 103.9, falling .76 cents to \$1.6285 and rising 1.43 pence to DM2.9256.

SPORT

Football: Whatever torments Gareth Southgate may have felt after England's loss to Germany in Euro '96, he has become one of the cornerstones of Glenn Hoddle's defence.

Tennis: Steffi Graf, playing her first match for four months, beat Rennae Stubbs in three sets at the DFS Classic grass court tournament in Edgbaston.

Cricket: Darren Gough, who broke his right index finger in the first Test, could be back in the England attack earlier than expected, in time for the third Test.

Golf: There are legitimate concerns at the way the game is evolving as scientists turn their attention from space race materials to the manufacturing of clubs.

Bryant's Eye: Just as the World Cup can already claim victory over the Olympic Games in terms of TV figures, so, too, it is getting the edge in sponsorship.

ARTS

Getting started: Three first feature films open in Britain and they illustrate totally different ways of getting a debut film on screen.

New films: Robert Duvall triumphs in The Apostle, a film he wrote, produced and starred in, while Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer tear each other to pieces in A Thousand Acres.

Welsh drama: Grim tidings from Wales in Ed Thomas's play Gas Station Angel.

Oriental art: The Japanese Rimba style of painting is now being recognised in Europe, with the help of a new exhibition at the British Museum.

Reviews: Timothy Garton Ash hails J. K. Galbraith's Kennedy letters; Amanda Foreman peeps into the woman's world of Georgian England; searches for the legacy of colonialism.

FEATURES

Dr Stuttaford: Why General Abacha might have lived; rodent ulcers; growth hormone secretions; the importance of defibrillators; inoculation; and nicotine and cancer.

Now, listen: Ann Widdecombe has a view - on everything.

Battered: Will being battered by her boyfriend prompt Ulrika Jonsson to put the brakes on her lifestyle?

Best buys: Musical delights, tours of the English countryside; a Tenerife resort at half-price.

Will General Abdusalam Abubakar pursue the same policies as his predecessor or embark on a policy that will breathe fresh air into Nigerian politics? He should, for example, allow free elections.

BUSINESS

SPORT

ARTS

FEATURES

TRAVEL

THE PAPERS

BOOKS

COLUMNS

OBITUARIES

LETTERS

FORECAST

General: southeast England will start with rain, clearing later to give some sunny spells. Elsewhere there will be a mix of sunny spells and well-scattered showers, with the risk of heavier showers in Northern Ireland this afternoon. It will feel cold across the country in the brisk, gusty winds.

London, SE, Cent S, E England, E Anglia: cold with showers, but becoming dry in afternoon with sunny breaks. Fresh N wind. Max 16C (61F).

EAW Midlands, Cent N, NE England: chilly with sunny spells and isolated showers. Moderate to fresh N to NW wind. Max 15C (59F).

Channel Is, SW, NW England, S&N Wales, Lakes, Isles: cold with sunny breaks and scattered showers. Fresh to strong NW wind. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray

FORECAST

Firth, NE Scotland: cold with sunny spells and isolated showers. Moderate to fresh NW wind. Max 14C (57F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: cold with sunny spells and scattered showers. Moderate to fresh NW wind. Max 14C (57F).

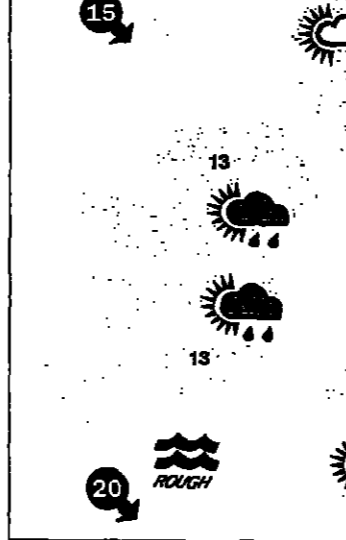
N Ireland: cold with sunny spells and showers, the odd one rather sharp. Moderate to fresh NW wind. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook: tomorrow will stay cold but most parts will be dry with sunny breaks and less wind. Saturday will be cool and breezy with sunny spells and showers.

Pollen forecast: low in Scotland, N Ireland, Wales, NE, NW, SW England. Low/moderate in London, Midlands. Cent S, SE England, East Anglia.

FORECAST

Changes to the chart below from noon: lows P and O will merge and drift east; high C will remain slow moving



Changes to the chart below from noon: lows P and O will merge and drift east; high C will remain slow moving

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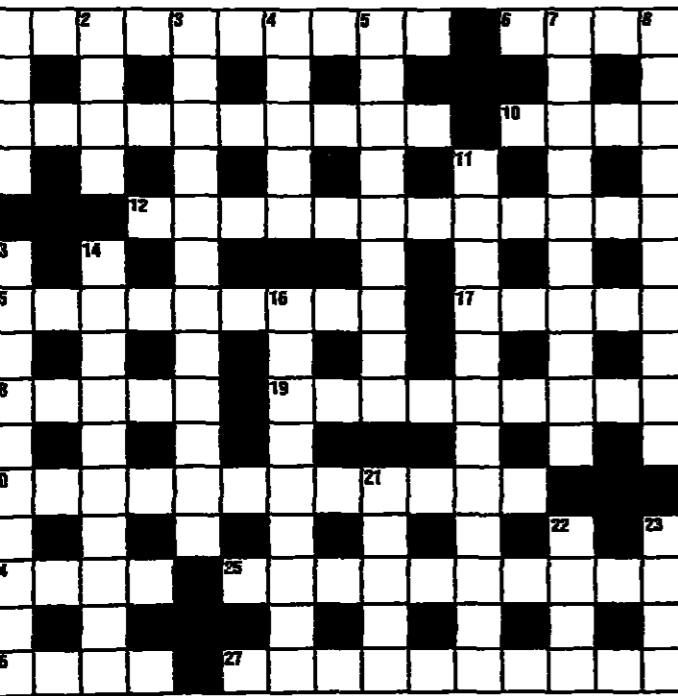
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD COMPETITION 1998 QUALIFYING PUZZLE

Form for crossword competition entry, including fields for Name, Address, Venue, and Willing to Change (Yes/No).

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,815



- ACROSS: 1 Beefy Russian nobleman (10), 6 Having no vowels, it attracts one's attention (4), 9 Dog that could briefly do for an Englishman (10), 10 Kiss for mistress immune from Cupid's darts (4), 12 Essential subscription needed by musicians (3,9), 15 Business groups study brand with excellent return (9), 17 Some deadly solution for disposing of germs (5), 18 Finally it indicates turning to figurative expression (5), 19 Timidly act as a cat's-paw? (9), 20 Oscar Wilde's Miss Cardew, for example, after school (7,5), 24 Network you are currently involved in (4), 25 Sublimed popular English comics at fixed cost (5,5), 26 She sticks together even parts of Leyden jar (4), 27 Endure court action earlier (10). DOWN: 1 August follower of Irish family (4), 2 Swindler! It's certainly not on the level (4), 3 Scene of first offence in former PM's plot? (6,2,4), 4 We can't accept these new and old numbers (2,3), 5 Weekend football, for example? (9), 7 Be quiet! Provide information to conciliate business (4,2,4), 8 Work out least steel required to cover plane (10), 11 Wall game one may come across in action (6,6), 13 A charming fish? That can't be right (5,5), 14 Possible site outside studio (2,8), 16 A urtic that could disturb pocket, say (5,4), 21 Legal document stated company's agreement to co-operate (5), 22 Spanish master's year in old Portuguese colony (4), 23 Paid for meal (4).

TODAY we publish the qualifying puzzle for The Times Crossword Championship, 1998.

Competition rules

Competitors may qualify by correctly solving and submitting this puzzle, sending the completed puzzle with the entry form and cheque for £10 to The Times Crossword Championship (to which cheques should be made payable), 13 Church Lane, Ripon, N Yorks HG4 2ES, so that the entry is postmarked not later than June 17. The solution will be published on Monday, June 22.

There is no need to send a stamped addressed envelope this year as all entries will be accepted subject to the proviso that a wrong qualifying entry will disqualify the competitor from any prize or place in the National Final.

There will be three regional finals only: Sunday, July 5 at Queens Hotel, Leeds and two at the Royal Festival Hall, starting at 11am (London A) and 3pm (London B) on Saturday, August 29. It is most important that competitors specify which regional final they intend to attend and show their (un)willingness to change; competitors for London will only receive a letter if it is necessary to ask some to take their second choice of time to avoid overcrowding.

Regional finals will be one-day (four puzzle) events, with qualification for the National Final on August 30 (also at the Royal Festival Hall) to be as follows: the regional winner plus one competitor for each further 40 or part-40 competitors. No dictionaries will be allowed at these finals.

Any enquiries concerning the event and its rules may be addressed to M C C Rich, tel/fax 01765 604034. In the event of dispute the decision of the Crossword Editor of The Times will be final. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd may not compete.

As early as 1865, the Matterhorn mattered a lot to

Swissair advertisement featuring the text 'British travellers. As early as 6:30 am you can be on your way to this and other high points - among them Swissair itself.' and the Swissair logo.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather data for various locations in Britain yesterday, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover.

ABROAD

Table showing weather data for various international locations, including temperature, wind, and cloud cover.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing sunrise and sunset times for various locations.

Travel advertisement for American Express, offering travel insurance and flights from £49.95 a year, with contact number 0800 700 737.

Large advertisement for 'Anger' magazine, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Nationwide gives extra £100m back to customers'.

Large advertisement for 'Anger' magazine, featuring a portrait of a man and the text 'Nationwide gives extra £100m back to customers'.

# THE TIMES

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TODAY



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Robert Duvall moves mountains as The Apostle PAGES 38-41



## SPORT

Graf's return from injury ends in triumph PAGES 46-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 11 1998

# Anger grows at Bank's U-turn

By JANET BUSH AND ANNE ASHWORTH

THE backlash against the Bank of England intensified yesterday after it emerged the Monetary Policy Committee voted overwhelmingly against an increase in interest rates in May, only to perform a U-turn four weeks later.

Homeowners began to feel the impact of last week's surprise quarter-point increase in base rates to 7.5 per cent when Abbey National announced a 0.25 per cent rise in mortgage rates to their highest level in five years.

Critics of the increase described the Bank's apparent shift in policy as "almost laughable". One said: "It is like a drunk staggering from side to side down the street."

Minutes for the MPC's May meeting, published yesterday, showed that only one member of the committee, Professor Willem Buiter, voted in favour of a rate rise. Six opted for no change and one, DeAnne Julius, voted for a cut in rates. This is the first time a member of the MPC has voted for a

rate cut since Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, set the committee up after taking office last May.

Yesterday Mr Brown said: "People may object to individual decisions like last week's. But it is a system which is credible and brings greater credibility to monetary policy in the UK."

May's voting was a distinct

softening of the committee's overall stance on rates from April's meeting when three members voted for a rate rise with five against.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney, accused the MPC of inconsistency and reacting too quickly to single statistics.

Mr Saunders said the MPC would be proved to have made

the wrong decision when March earnings figures are published next Wednesday. February's reported jump in annual earnings growth, one of the key reasons for June's rate rise, is known to have been exaggerated by bonuses.

Yesterday Tony Blair defended the decision to raise interest rates. The Prime Minister told William Hague,

Leader of the Opposition, at Question Time: "The choice is very simple. You either decide that you will have the huge borrowing and national debt that we inherited from your Government, inflation back in the system, boom and bust back — that has gone — or you have the decisions that we have [made]."

The pound rose to its high-

est level for a month against the German mark, with foreign exchange dealers taking the view that interest rates may not yet have peaked. Sterling closed more than one pence higher at DM2.9256 and the sterling index against a basket of foreign currencies rose from 103.9 to 104.3 points.

Abbey National is the first mortgage lender to lift the cost

of borrowing but others are expected to quickly follow.

Abbey National borrowers with £50,000 mortgages will see their monthly repayments rise by £7.92 a month from £392.18 to £400.10. In total they are paying an extra £60.50 a month since Labour came to power.

Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, yesterday signalled that US interest rates would stay pegged for now because as inflation remained low.

He said the US economy was in a virtuous cycle where higher wages fuel growth but prices are held down by economic problems overseas.

He said: "The crisis in Asia will almost certainly damp exports further, potentially moderating the growth of domestic production and hence employment."

Chris Smith, an analyst at Prudential Mutual Funds, said: "Greenspan is basically saying the Fed is on hold."

Commentary, page 31

### HOW THE COMMITTEE HAS VOTED

	Rise	Same	Cut	Result
1997				
June	6	0	0	6.25 to 6.50 per cent
July	6	0	0	6.50 to 6.75 per cent
August	5	0	0	6.75 to 7.00 per cent
September	0	7	0	rate unchanged
October	0	7	0	rate unchanged
November	7	0	0	7.00 to 7.25 per cent
December	0	8	0	rate unchanged
1998				
January	3	5	0	rate unchanged
February	4	4	0	rate unchanged
March	4	4	0	rate unchanged
April	3	5	0	rate unchanged
May	1	6	1	rate unchanged
June	?	?	?	7.25 to 7.50 per cent

### ANATOMY OF JUNE RATE INCREASE

**MAY 7**  
The Monetary Policy Committee votes convincingly against rate increase. The pound falls to year low of DM2.90.

**MAY 11**  
Manufacturing production data confirms that the sector is in recession.

**MAY 13**  
The Bank of England Quarterly Inflation Report shows economy on course to hit inflation target. Some rate rise worries persist after average earnings growth data, published the same day, show annual growth jumping to 4.9 per cent from 4.5 per cent.

**MAY 19**  
Underlying inflation hits 3 per cent while headline inflation hits a six-year high of 4 per cent, prompting worries over further rise in earnings data.

**MAY 21**  
April retail sales data shows monthly rise of just 0.1 per cent. Pound falls to six month low of just over DM2.85 as City concludes there will be no further rate rises.

**MAY 28**  
CBI says export orders are at a 15-year low.

**JUNE 2**  
Confederation of British Industry retail sales survey points to further slowdown in May.

**JUNE 3**  
CIPS Service sector survey shows that growth is also slowing.

**JUNE 4**  
MPC, with John Vickers attending for the first time, stuns markets by voting to increase base rates by a quarter point. The pound climbs back towards DM2.91.

## Nationwide gives extra £100m back to customers

By CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONWIDE Building Society is to hand out a further £100 million in mutuality benefits on the back of profits that have soared by 40 per cent.

The boost in profits was achieved through increasing net new mortgage business by 27 per cent to £2.8 billion. The increase was achieved because the Nationwide hands back profits to customers through lower mortgage rates and higher savings rates. The society now lends more than the Halifax, Abbey National, and Alliance & Leicester combined.

The extra £100 million in mutuality benefits will be delivered in the form of higher rates for the Nationwide's seven million savings custom-

ers, as the society yesterday added an average 0.35 per cent to its savings rates, without an increase in the mortgage rate. The society said if it did increase its mortgage rates, in response to last week's base rate change, it would increase its savings rates again.

Brian Davis, the chief executive, said that the increase in profits was a vindication of its pro-mutual stance. "We have experienced unprecedented growth, achieving significantly increased shares of the residential mortgage and short-term savings market."

Profits, boosted by the increase in lending, Nationwide attracted also high amounts of savings from its competitors and savings held by the society rose to £33 billion from £26.8 billion.

Some of the money was switched there by disaffected Northern Rock savers, angered by the newly fledged bank's decision to change their accounts rates.

The results come as members are being asked to vote on whether the society should follow the Halifax, Woolwich and the Alliance & Leicester to float on the stock market. Mr Davis said he did not know which way the vote would go. Many of the new savers have joined the society are believed to be "carpet baggers", having opened accounts in order to benefit from any windfall on flotation, and this fact is sure to make the vote closer than last year's decision.



Davis: vindicated

Commentary, page 31

## Yen's fall revives worries for Asian markets

By ALASDAIR MURRAY  
ECONOMICS  
CORRESPONDENT

ASIAN financial markets face a renewed onslaught after further falls in the Japanese yen revived fears that China could be forced to devalue its currency.

The yen dived to a seven-year low of 141.55 to the US dollar overnight after a string of poor data highlighted the problems in the country's enfeebled economy. The yen later recovered to 140.60 to the dollar after Larry Summers, US Treasury Secretary, said that Japan's currency problems had been discussed by G7 leaders and they would continue to "monitor developments".

Earlier, Hikaru Matsunaga, Japanese Finance Minister, took the unusual step of saying he believed the yen's decline had been "excessive" and he would co-operate with other nations to stem the fall.

Analysts fear, however, that the yen could fall further and force the Chinese into devaluing the yuan to prevent exports from suffering. Chinese trade data yesterday showed exports falling by 15 per cent in May, the first decline in nearly two years.

The Chinese Government has repeatedly said it is under no pressure to devalue but on Tuesday Dai Xianglong, Governor of the Chinese central bank, emphasised the damaging impact of the falling yen on the Chinese economy.

In regional markets, Hong Kong was the biggest loser. The Hang Seng closed down 4.91 per cent at 7,979.37, the lowest since March 1995. In Tokyo, the Nikkei shed 190.91 points to close at 15,339.26.



Rana Talwar, who is to succeed Malcolm Williamson

## Talwar wins Standard Chartered job

By JON ASHWORTH

STANDARD CHARTERED, the banking group with its roots embedded deep in British colonial history, has appointed an Indian national to lead it into the next millennium.

Rana Talwar, 50, who joined from Citibank just over a year ago, will be the first Indian to take the helm of a FTSE 100 company. He succeeds Malcolm Williamson as group chief executive in October, bringing a welcome international perspective to a boardroom circuit dominated by Eton, Oxford and Cambridge.

Mr Talwar said his appointment was "a matter of pride", adding: "I've always been a believer in ability above labels." Born in New Delhi, he joined Citibank after university, and spent 13 years building the group's consumer businesses across Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. He was subsequently responsible for Citibank's consumer businesses in America and Europe, and for Diners Club globally.

Mr Talwar sees scope for revitalising the Standard Chartered brand in emerging markets. His immediate aim is to "ride" the Asian economic cycle, seeking long-term buy-

ing opportunities. He has worked in India, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brussels and Chicago. He lives in London, and is married with two sons and a daughter.

Asians and Afro-Caribbeans are a rarity in British boardrooms — though it is more often the absence of women directors that attracts attention. The only immediate comparison is with C.K. Chow, chief executive of GKN, who succeeded Sir David Lees at the helm of the engineering group in January 1997. Born in Hong Kong, Mr Chow was headhunted from BOC, the industrial gases company.

Lord (Swaraj) Paul is chairman of Caparo, the steel group, but largely built the company himself. Nazmu Virani performed a similar feat with Control Securities, before becoming caught up in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

The Commission For Racial Equality said: "It's good news when people get there on merit. There is a dearth of people from ethnic minorities in these positions, and they have an awful lot to offer."

City Diary, page 33

## Rescue delayed

Serious problems have held up the Government's plan to save Britain's coal industry by arranging long-term contracts with electricity generators. They centre on whether coal-burning generators should be forced to sell power stations, and how much coal they could use.

## Life support

The future of thousands of dealers at Life depends not on yesterday's vote to opt for fully-electronic trading, but on how the Futures Exchange answers three crucial questions.

## Granada stake

Granada Group is considering a sale of its 10.8 per cent stake in BSkyB within the next two years. At current prices, this would bring in more than £800 million. Page 31

## Hyder warning

Hyder, the Welsh multi-utility, has given warning that it may scrap its policy of rapid diversification. It has blamed uncertainty over the government's plans for utility regulation. Page 34

## Court awards new casino licence to Ritz

By DOMINIC WALSH

LONDON'S luxury Ritz Hotel was yesterday granted a new casino licence after Southwark Crown Court unexpectedly overturned last year's decision by the South Westminster gaming committee to refuse the hotel a licence.

The decision, taken after a six-day hearing, is a triumph for Aidan Barclay, the owner of Ritz Hotel Casino Ltd (RHC), who had put

together funding worth £14.5 million behind the bid. Mr Barclay is the son of David Barclay, one of the reclusive Barclay twins who acquired the hotel three years ago.

London Clubs International, which is scheduled to vacate the Ritz Club premises when its lease expires at the end of this month, said it was "disappointed" by the judgment, describing the granting of an additional London licence as "unwelcome".

The decision is just the latest in a series of setbacks for London Clubs, whose fortunes have been badly hit by the Chancellor's shock decision in the last Budget to raise gaming duty, at a stroke wiping out a third of LCI's annual profits. A veiled profit warning in April further dented investors' confidence.

London Clubs decided to quit the Ritz Club after the hotel made a sharply increased rental demand. It has since spent almost £20 million

acquiring and fitting out a new casino, called 50 St James's, just around the corner from the Ritz, which opens on July 1. RHC is to spend £1.5 million refitting the basement premises.

After having its original application turned down, RHC dropped its argument that there was unmet consumer demand for an additional casino licence.

Commentary, page 31

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# Future's clouded despite a united front

THE decision by Liffe, the London futures and options market, to opt for trading on electronic screens was a foregone conclusion, even if Tuesday night's 98 per cent majority in favour of the board's proposals was higher than most had expected.

But the vote leaves three outstanding questions for the market's members and administrators. Pessimists believe the future of the 2,500 to 3,000 traders who work at Liffe at any one time could hang on how these are answered. The three questions are:

- How much trade will continue to take place in "open outcry", the face-to-face dealing by traders in colourful jackets on the floor of the market on behalf of the firms employing them.
- By contrast, how much of the trade goes on to the improved electronic screens when these come in, both in terms of the volume of business and the number of products traded at Liffe.
- These range from short-term interest rate contracts to options on equities and futures in various Treasury bonds and other financial instruments traded around the world.

## Martin Waller considers the implications of Liffe's overwhelming vote in favour of electronic trading

Who, as chairman, runs the market and ensures the changes that are needed are successfully brought in.

Jack Wigglesworth, the Liffe chairman, attends his last board meeting on July 9. His successor is being sought and an announcement is expected in August. Daniel Hodson, chief executive, has ruled himself out, and there are no serious candidates among the existing administration. The successful applicant could come from outside the market or from one of the member firms.

Mr Wigglesworth has made it clear that the pace at which "open outcry" is phased out, and whether it goes at all, will be determined by the traders themselves and how many are prepared, when they can, to desert the floor. Liffe's decline over the past year has been

relative; during that period it overtook the Chicago Mercantile as the world's second-biggest futures market, and the average 880,000 contracts a day traded in London is up by 9 per cent since June 1997.

But it is in the German Treasury bond, the so-called bund, that the decline has been worst. This is both a matter of prestige — Liffe had dominated trading since this started here in 1988 and took pride in doing Frankfurt's business in London — and economic importance with the coming of the single currency. This time last year London had two thirds of all bund trading and Frankfurt one third. Now the German futures exchange there carries out 85 per cent of the business.

The intention is to bring in electronic trading of equity options from November 30, while

producing a new electronic trading system by the second quarter of next year. Currently this takes place at Liffe on a dedicated network, meaning users have to pay £10,000 for a specialised screen. The new system would be operable on any screen.

Defenders of open outcry point out that certain contracts, because of their complexity, are easier to trade face-to-face than on screen. These include short-term interest rate contracts or "stirs". But others, such as the bund, are easier on screen, and with the Germans already offering screen trading, this has accelerated the flight to Frankfurt.

No one knows for certain how many people work at Liffe because they are employed by individual members and change jobs frequently. The figure varies between 2,500 and 3,000, and anecdotal evidence suggests it has been falling for some months. It is probably too soon to announce the death of open outcry trading and the disappearance of those colourful jackets. But when electronic trading takes off, they are certainly going to be less conspicuous in the City.

# Negotiations deadlocked over rescue plan for coal

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SERIOUS problems have emerged in the Government's negotiations with the electricity generators over a plan to save the coal industry.

It is feared an amended plan could reduce the market for coal from the level which had been hoped for and trigger pit closures.

An announcement on energy policy and how a market for coal over the next few years could be secured had been expected today. But fundamental differences have surfaced over what the Government wants from the generators and what they are prepared to give.

At issue in the talks, which are being led by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, is whether the main coal-burning stations should sell power stations to encourage competition, what price caps they will face, and what tonnage they will be able to burn.

Mr Robinson is thought to have gone back to the drawing board to draft fresh plans after opposition from some of the parties. He is keen that the salvation plan for coal should involve a willingness from the coal-burning generators that they will sell some of their power stations to encourage competition.

Mr Robinson is believed to want divestment of plant to be voluntary, although sources have indicated that a Monopolies and Mergers Commission reference could be forced if voluntary offers are not forthcoming. It is possible he could win agreement to a very anodyne statement of intent to sell in the future if he yields on price caps.

Tonnage is another critical issue with the generators unconvinced that they will be able to burn 25 million tonnes a year — the figure wanted by the Government because it would enable RJB, the biggest mining company, to continue present production.

One chief executive involved in the discussions said a lowering of tonnage could threaten the viability of RJB which is already facing substantial price reductions in order to strike the deal.



Under cover: Roger Young, left, and David Gray, finance director of Scottish Hydro

## Scottish Hydro to challenge gas block

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE OF the country's main electricity generators could mount a legal challenge against a continued block on new gas-fired power stations.

The stalling of new gas projects, which could last more than three years and is expected to be implemented by the Government as part of its new energy policy, will be subjected to legal scrutiny by Scottish Hydro-Electric.

The generator has approval to build two gas-fired stations but could be blocked if the Government decides not to grant separate approval to burn gas at the sites. It is expected that the Government will use a variety of methods to delay new gas-fired stations as part of its attempt to secure a market for coal.

Roger Young, chief executive, said that while a mixed fuel energy policy was desirable, the Government should leave it up to the market to implement it. He said direct intervention was "a short-term political act dressed up in various ways to gain respectability — none of which work".

Scottish Hydro-Electric has pumped £30 million into preparation to expand two power stations at Keady in South Yorkshire and Seabank in Bristol. The company has built much of its strategy on generation development in England and Wales. Last year more than a third of its operating profits — £88 million — came from generation south of the border.

Pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 inched up to £213.1 million from £205.4 million. Earnings per share, adjusted for the effects of the windfall tax, rose to 44.98p from 42.35p. The total dividend was lifted 10 per cent to 19.41p with a final 13.6p due on October 1.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Johnston seeks rule change on mergers

JOHNSTON PRESS, the regional newspaper group, called yesterday for the reform of the newspaper merger rules after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission gave the go-ahead for its proposed acquisition of Home Counties Newspapers. However, the MMC decision that the proposed bid would not operate against the public interest came too late for Johnston. As a result of the reference of the deal to the MMC earlier this year, Eastern Counties Newspaper Group, publisher of the Eastern Daily Press, came in with a winning £58.3 million offer. The combined circulation of paid-for copies fell just below the 500,000 threshold that would trigger an automatic investigation and there was no significant overlap of titles.

Tim Bowdler, chief executive of Johnston Press, said the MMC was taking an unduly restrictive view of media markets, looking at individual media in isolation. Johnston was now going to get together with the rest of the regional industry and press for reform of the rules.

### Tesco's Irish plans hit

THE Irish Government has temporarily banned the building of superstores with more than 32,000 sq ft of floor space in a move that could hit Tesco's plans to expand in the Republic. Tesco became market leader in Ireland when it bought ABP's Irish supermarkets business a year ago for £643 million. Among its Irish projects, the company has applied for permission to build a 55,000 sq ft store in the north of Dublin and has a site for a similarly sized store to the west of the city.

### Enterprise recovery

ENTERPRISE, the AIM-listed inner city regeneration specialist, went into the black during the first half with a £1.9 million pre-tax profit in the six months to April 30, against a previous £736,000 loss. Earnings per share were 5.5p, against losses of 6.2p. Sales rose from £9.5 million to £12.8 million. The half-year dividend rises from 1.5p to 1.65p. David Taylor, chief executive, said the results show that the cost savings achieved in last year's restructuring are continuing to flow through.

### Carlton buys into Mexico

CARLTON COMMUNICATIONS has acquired 50 per cent of Central de Video, the leading video cassette manufacturer in Mexico, for up to \$15.5 million (£9.5 million) from Grupo Video Visa, Mexico's largest home entertainment company. Central de Video has the capacity to produce more than 25 million units a year and has an approximate 75 per cent market share within the region. The company already works for a number of the major Hollywood studios.

### Visa seeks EU harmony

HANS van der Velde, the head of European Union operations at Visa, the credit card company, said he wanted to hold talks with industry rivals to agree a common technology for electronic payment cards in Europe. It was essential for a standard to be developed by the year 2002, when euro notes and coins are due to replace national currencies in 11 member nations, he said. "It would be crazy for notes and coins to have more utility than a card."

### Wolters Kluwer US deal

WOLTERS KLUWER, the Dutch publisher which abandoned merger talks with Reed Elsevier, announced the purchase of Plenum, an American publisher of scientific, technical and medical journals and books, for \$258 million (£13 million). Plenum, which employs 270 staff, has annual sales of about \$5 million. Wolters has launched a tender offer worth \$73.50 per Plenum share and has received acceptances for 15.3 per cent of the company.

### Ryanair sales rocket

RYANAIR, the Dublin-based airline, raised pre-tax profits by £24.5 million to £37.5 million (£33.2 million) in the year to the end of March. Its first as a public company. Passenger volumes were up 28 per cent and sales rose £101.2 million to £182.6 million. Michael O'Leary, the chief executive, said: "We are in negotiations with a large number of European airports, and, thanks to our firm order for 25 new Boeing 737 aircraft, we are in a position to continue our growth."

### Far East worries CML

CML MICROSYSTEMS, the electronics equipment group, raised pre-tax profits by 30.6 per cent to £2.52 million on sales up 13 per cent to £20.6 million in the year to March 31. Earnings were up 31 per cent to 10.99p out of which the total dividend rises 15 per cent to 7.0p a share. The shares rose 25p to 184p. The company said it remains concerned about increasing price pressures in the Far East, but hopes that a balance across its markets can be achieved.

### Tandem rebels confident

REBEL shareholders of Tandem yesterday forecast an easy victory in their battle to oust the board. Maurice Cowen, a Leeds solicitor leading the rebellion, said he could eject four current directors in an extraordinary meeting on June 30 if he wins as few as 20 per cent of the votes because the shares are so widely held. His plan is to sell the Lincolnshire bicycle factory to pay off a £13.6 million debt, then build up a portfolio of horse racing courses.

### CSFB expands in Brazil

BANCO GARANTIA, Brazil's top investment bank, stung by Asia-related losses, is to be sold to CS First Boston for \$675 million (£413 million) made up of \$200 million in cash and the rest in shares. Lukas Muehleemann, chief executive of CS Group, said Garantia presented opportunities in investment banking, asset management and private banking in Latin America. He said: "We intend to use CSFB Garantia as a platform for expansion throughout Latin America."

## Peace brings jobs boost for Ulster

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MORE THAN 23,000 new jobs are expected to be created in Northern Ireland over the next three years, almost halving unemployment as the Province profits from the peace dividend.

Inward investment projects likely to be agreed between now and 2001 will produce 18,000 new jobs while 5,000 more will be created by local companies, according to forecasts from the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board (IDB).

However, Alan Gillespie, chairman of the IDB, said that the jobs boost could be shattered by unrest. He said: "The change in the political climate gives the IDB a unique platform to make an impact on

export markets. However, any return to political instability would have adverse implications for these targets."

The wave of foreign investment will cut substantially unemployment in the Province that stands at 59,000. However, the jobs will take time to feed through after the deals have been signed.

About half of the 23,000 will be actually delivered in three years as projects begin to develop, with the rest taking longer. The creation will also be mitigated by job losses in traditional industries such as textiles and food manufacturing. Northern Ireland's growth will come in telecommunications, electronics and the service sector.

## Sales of houses worth £2m soar

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SALES of houses worth more than £2 million each have tripled and the average price of a house in England and Wales is more than 9 per cent higher than this time last year.

Figures from the Land Registry show that the average house price in England and Wales between January and March was £79,715, compared with £72,900 a year earlier.

As far as sales volumes were concerned, the top end of the market from £80,000 upwards is showing the most buoyancy. Below this, sales volumes fell in some cases by almost 20 per cent during the three months. The figures also pointed to a slowdown in price rises, with the first three months of 1998 showing only a small increase,

0.6 per cent, against the last three months of 1997.

Without a modest increase in prices in London and the South East, prices for the whole of England and Wales would have shown a fall over the six-month period, said the Land Registry. The lowest property prices were in Blaenau Gwent, where the average was £34,319, followed by Hull at £34,531. Most expensive was Kensington and Chelsea at £287,592, while outside London the costliest area was Surrey at £140,223.

Yolande Barnes, of the estate agent Savills, said bonuses for executives in the City had pushed up prices of prime country homes in the South East and Home Counties.

## Opportunity for Airbus as Boeing cuts production

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BOEING will cut production of the 747 jumbo jet by 30 per cent next year in response to a slump in Asian orders, raising Airbus' hopes of winning air superiority.

The US aerospace company is already suffering production problems and the latest cutbacks may allow Airbus to establish the first prolonged lead over Boeing in their decade-spanning rivalry.

According to the latest figures in Aerospace Daily, Airbus has pulled ahead of Boeing in the first quarter of this year, winning 185 new

aircraft orders compared with Boeing's 116. Airbus has hardly been affected by the slump in Asian orders as many of its best customers operate in Europe.

Over the past three decades, Airbus has lagged behind Boeing but its investments in new technology and modern production facilities are finally paying off. Its fully automated plant in Toulouse has not experienced the same problems as Boeing's mostly manual operations in Seattle.

Boeing said: "The continued slow traffic growth in

Asia has caused some airlines to negotiate slides in deliveries of their 1999 orders for the 747 or to substitute other Boeing airplane models for their existing 747 orders. This means we have to reduce the rate on the 747 programme."

Boeing will reduce 747 production from five per month during the last three quarters of 1999. Its revised production plan is expected to result in job losses in addition to the 12,000 previously announced.

JNOC's main function is to provide soft loans and venture

## JNOC head resigns over oil investment failures

By CARL MORTISHED

THE president of the powerful Japanese state oil company has resigned amid allegations that Japan National Oil Corporation (JNOC) has accumulated \$10 billion (about £6.13 billion) in bad loans.

Reports from Tokyo suggest that Kunio Komatsu, JNOC's president, was dismissed by MITI, the trade ministry, because of the oil company's massive subsidy to Japanese oil exploration companies had resulted in bad debts totalling 1.4 trillion yen.

JNOC's main function is to provide soft loans and venture

capital to a host of Japanese oil exploration companies such as Japex, Inpex and Nippon Oil. According to JNOC's 1997 annual report the company has provided funds to 294 companies since it was set up more than 30 years ago. At the end of December only 50 of those companies were expected to produce oil and 162 companies had ceased to exist.

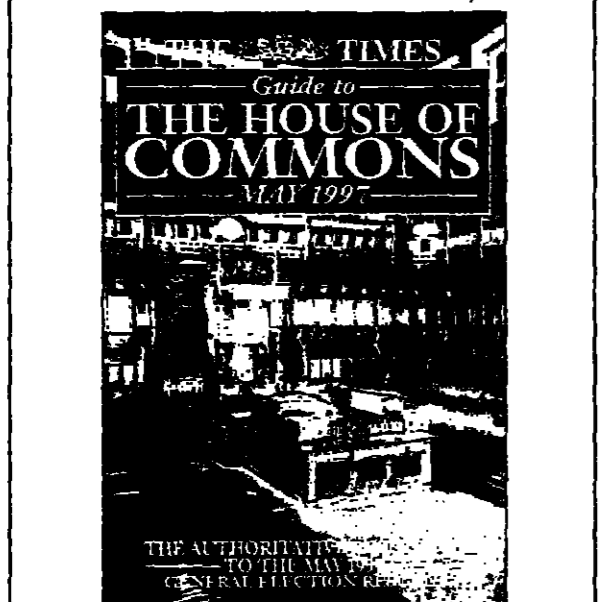
Oil industry sources believe that Japan adopted a scattergun approach to investment as it rushed to diversify the energy-starved country's sources of oil. One oil com-

pany executive said: "They have had a particularly poor track record. A programme based on subsidised loans is not the best way of balancing risk and reward."

JNOC's funding terms were very generous and it appears that failed exploration ventures were not held to their debts.

According to a JNOC document: "In case these companies fail to make commercial discoveries, they can be exempt from JNOC loans in the process of their dissolution."

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# BA faces a double whammy

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Exactly two years ago Bob Ayling and Don Carty draped themselves with the Union Jack and the Stars and Stripes to signify the coming together of their two companies. The gesture was a touch optimistic. Today the alliance of British Airways and American Airlines has still to take off, and like holidaymakers forced to endure long delays at the airport, the wait appears to be dulling their enthusiasm for the adventure.

The plan has been grounded while Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner in Brussels, considers its implications and enjoys exerting his own particular brand of water torture on captains of business. His method is to keep them waiting and keep them guessing. But the agony of EU induced uncertainty may be nearing an end for BA. The betting is that Van Miert will reveal his decision to the Commission in a fortnight's time.

If it is as harsh as his early pronouncements suggested, this could be somewhat embarrassing for the British authorities. They have already indicated that they would be prepared to see the deal agreed on the basis that the two companies would surrender a total of 168 slots at Heathrow. Van Miert first set his price at 353 and is now said to be closer to 300. This is too expensive for

British Airways to contemplate. In theory, the UK may be able to note the views of the Commissioner and ignore them, although Van Miert would almost certainly tell Margaret Beckett that he would see her in the European Court. Much more comfortable for the Government would be for Brussels to come up with a ruling which Britain felt it could back. Emmissaries of the President of the Board of Trade are no doubt working at persuading the Commissioner to compromise but Van Miert is a match for any politician and not inclined to give ground easily.

This leaves British Airways in what we might call a complex message situation. It needs to persuade Mrs Beckett that the deal is crucial for Britain and that the Government should not be browbeaten by Brussels into making it unviable. But it must also reassure the City that it can live quite happily without the benefits of an alliance with AA. Enough to make even a seasoned spin doctor feel dizzy.

But even if Brussels can be squared, the deal is not assured of success. In the United States,

Assistant Attorney General Joel Klein has donned the cape of the anti-trust crusader. He has sent blood at Microsoft, launched an attack on Intel and spelt out his view that the BA/AA alliance would be anti-competitive. With Van Miert as the other half of this dynamic duo, no major company, let alone merger plan, seems safe.

## Nationwide's better deal nationwide

The silly season is upon us again, as the eccentric sarong-wearing former royal butler makes his second attempt for election to the board of the Nationwide in a bid to force it to forsake its mutual status.

However, what the butler saw last year as a straightforward

vote for a £2,000 windfall, instead of the meagre savings offered by the mutuals on savings and mortgages, has now moved on to more complicated ground.

The Nationwide's enormous gains in both savings and lending business has left the opposition gasping for breath. The society now lends more than the Halifax, Abbey National and Alliance & Leicester put together, showing that Brian Davis's dream of a virtuous circle is assuming reality. More lending means that the society can hand more money back to members in the form of lower loan rates and higher savings rates.

Consumers have clearly noted these benefits offered by mutualism and the appreciation has been heightened by the sharp practices of some of the converted former building societies.

Northern Rock's imposition of lower rates on some of its savers recently has provoked the ire of the Office of Fair Trading, which is now investigating banking practices.

The vote on the future of the Nationwide may be closer than last year's five-to-one endorsement of the board's stance, but members, many of whom may be sated with shares from the floated building societies, could still vote in favour of mutualism, leaving arch-rivals such as the Halifax and the Abbey National looking vulnerable. The latter yesterday sneakily added 0.25 per cent to its mortgage rate, safe in the knowledge that the nation's eyes would be on the football fortunes of Scotland.

Halifax is also sure to increase its mortgage rates, which will do nothing to help to boost its diminishing share of the lending

market. This bank is already under pressure to spend some of the £3 billion cash that is burning a hole in its pocket. Buying up Birmingham Midshires may help its dilemma, but this may not be enough to counteract the effects of customers flocking elsewhere. It needs to be a little more imaginative if it wants to win the battle for borrowers.

## Policy is a matter of consuming interest

Months before the Monetary Policy Committee became our national punchbag, it was itching to have its say on the Chancellor's fiscal policy. Yesterday it did.

"Fiscal policy should perhaps have been set more directly to reduce consumption growth," read paragraph 35 of its latest minutes. For central bankers, past masters at impenetrable language, this was almost swinging. After the condemnation of the MPC's decision to raise rates last week, there is a good chance of more forthright criticism of the Chancellor.

Independent economists have long argued that interest rates have gone up more than they would have done if the Chancellor had used his two Budgets so far to attack consumption, rather than leaving the entire job of slowing the economy on the shoulders of the MPC.

One of the MPC's academic economists, notably one of the most consistent hawks, shares this view. He has argued that the Bank has a duty to air its views on fiscal policy in public and so overcome a little of the current nonsensical separation of fiscal and monetary policy.

Another MPC outsider, DeAnne Julius, was brave enough to vote for a cut in rates. It is no coincidence that she is the only committee member to have any real experience of business.

## Dropped a bundle

If Alan Goodenough were a gambler, his recent run of luck would have had him signing up to Gamblers Anonymous. The chief executive of London Clubs must be wondering why he has both ended to turn what was once a discredited organisation into one of the world's most respected casino operators. The odds against the first new upmarket casino licence for London in more than 20 years must have been 100-1, but Goodenough still lost.

# Granada looks at selling 10.8% stake in BSkyB

By Raymond Snoddy and Dominic Walsh

GRANADA GROUP is considering a sale of its 10.8 per cent stake in BSkyB, the satellite television venture, within the next two years, which at current prices would bring in more than £800 million.

The media and hospitality combine has decided to bring forward a likely sale because of the prospect of increasing conflicts of interest between BSkyB's soon-to-launch digital satellite services and Granada's 50 per cent stake in BDB, the main commercial digital terrestrial service.

Gerry Robinson, the Granada chairman, has already resigned as both chairman and a director of BSkyB because of possible conflicts, although both sides have emphasised that relations between the two parties are amicable.

Granada has already started exploring tax-efficient ways of selling its holding in BSkyB, in which News International, owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake. One option is for BSkyB to buy the stake directly from Granada. How-

ever, Granada will not sell until both digital satellite and digital terrestrial have been successfully launched. The "soft" launch of BDB is scheduled for early November.

The group yesterday reported a 13 per cent rise in half-year profits before tax and exceptional items to £274 million — in line with analysts' forecasts — on turnover from on-going businesses up 12 per cent to £1.93 billion. Fully diluted earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 21.0p; the interim dividend is 5.14p (4.66p).

Media, boosted by the integration of Yorkshire-Type Tees TV, lifted operating profits by 26 per cent to £112 million. Although like-for-like advertising revenues declined by around 3 per cent in the first half, the second half started strongly with revenues rising 24 per cent in April and May. Mr Robinson expressed surprise yesterday at just how strong advertising remained, adding: "It doesn't seem to be slowing down — quite the reverse."

Profits from restaurants and contract catering were up 25 per cent to £102 million, while hotels reported a 15 per cent improvement to £124 million. The decline at rentals continued, with profits dropping from £57 million to £49 million, although Mr Robinson emphasised that the business remained "hugely cash-generative".

Profit-taking saw Granada shares shed 45p to £11.38.

Robinson: left BSkyB posts

Tempus, page 32

# Staveley suffers sharp dip

STAVELEY, the troubled engineering and minerals group, has reported pre-tax profits for the year to March 28 down 59 per cent at £8.5 million (£21.3 million) before exceptional losses of £79.6 million (Matthew Barbour writes).

The group, which in March announced the departure of Roy Hitchens, its chief executive, also warned shareholders it would make a pre-tax loss of about £74 million after

the sale of its troubled measurement businesses. Its service business results were seriously hit by a previously disclosed contract withdrawal.

Staveley Minerals suffered from both the strong pound and increased competition, while NDT Technologies was hit by a low level of military sales.

Earnings per share are down 56 per cent at 6.1p (13.9p) and the dividend for the year has been frozen at 9p.

# Expro records 15% rise

EXPRO INTERNATIONAL, the deep water oil service specialist, said that the long-term fundamentals of its business were strong despite a 33 per cent fall in the price of a barrel of crude oil over the past year (Carl Morfished writes). John Dawson, chief executive, said that the industry had learnt to live with low oil prices.

There is a concern about what the Government might do about taxation

in the North Sea, but 70 per cent of our business is outside the UK.

Expro reported a 15 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £20 million in the year to March, after a 19 per cent rise in revenue to £125 million. The company provides equipment and services to oil companies engaged in sub-sea exploration and production. Mr Dawson said Expro has a 50 per cent share in North Sea well-testing. The dividend for the year is 9.15p (8p).

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# Tenants wait on court ruling over pub leases

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

A LONG-AWAITED lawsuit over pub leases which tied tenants to buying beer from Courage — and allegedly drove many out of business in the process — reached a critical stage yesterday in a courtroom packed with disgruntled pubitizens.

The High Court is being asked to rule on whether, in the event of the leases being held unlawful under European Treaty free trade laws, tenants can obtain damages against Courage and Intrepreneur Estates. Claims by up to 1,000 tenants, totalling more than £400 million, are thought to be in the pipeline. Mr Justice Carnwath has also to decide whether rent arrears owed by tenants can be set off against damages.

The test case involves Bernard Crehan who, with his

brother-in-law, Christopher Carrol, signed leases on two pubs, The Cock and The Phoenix, in Staines, West London. In a pending action, Mr Crehan, who traded at the pubs between 1991 and 1993, is being sued by Courage over debts run up for beer supplied.

But in a counter-claim, Mr Crehan claims he lost about £21,000 through being tied to buying from Courage instead of being free to purchase at a discount from other suppliers.

He says he would have stayed in business but for the tie and is therefore also claiming £46,800 spent on building work and refurbishment. The hearing is set to last four days. The judge is unlikely to give his ruling until after judgment in a similar case, involving Gibbs Mew pubs, under consideration by the Court of Appeal.

# Mansfield plans £25m theme pubs

By Dominic Walsh

MANSFIELD Brewery, the East Midlands brewer and pub operator, is to spend £25 million over the next 12 months on five distinct branded-pub concepts.

Although the company is convinced that the themed-pub balloon will eventually burst, it is confident its own brands are strong enough to succeed and is planning 15 openings this year.

The plans emerged as the group reported a 10.4 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £23 million in the year to March 28, from turnover 9.7 per cent ahead at £173.8 million. Earnings per share reached 26.51p (23.15p) and a final dividend of 5.65p makes 8.0p (7.0p).

Brewing reported a 12.3 per cent rise in sales to £69.9 million and the brewery is operating close to capacity.

Mansfield has declared 25 of its top pubs football-free zones during the World Cup.

# Rebel shareholders offer Tring a financial lifeline

By Sarah Cunningham

SHAREHOLDERS who supported a refinancing attempt by Tring, the discount music company whose shares were suspended last month, have come up with a loan to stop it going bust.

A trust set up for members of the Levinson family, which owns 12.9 per cent of Tring, is to lend an unspecified amount to the company. Tring then intends to make a reverse takeover deal with another company, whose name is, as yet, also unspecified.

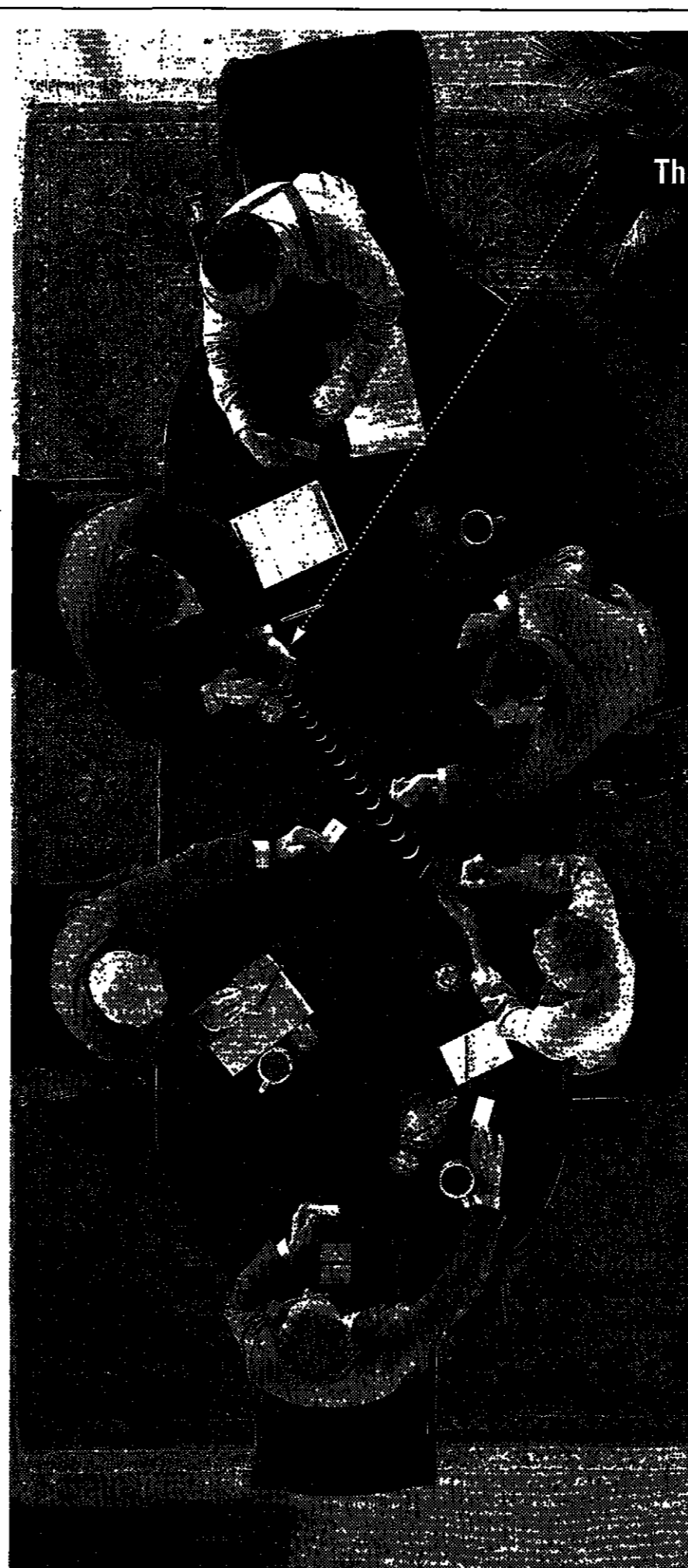
Mark Levinson, one of the founders of the company, left in February last year. Rows among the founders have littered the history of Tring.

Mr Levinson, Jay Chernow and Mark Frey were among the shareholders who on May 11 stopped the refinancing attempted by the board.

Tring will have to pay interest on the loan of 2 per cent above the NatWest base rate and the full amount is repayable on

demand. The company is not seeking shareholder approval for the loan because it needs the cash immediately to pay creditors. The company would otherwise have to start insolvency proceedings, it said.

The London Stock Exchange, which recently rebuked Tring for not seeking shareholder approval for the sale of a warehouse, has this time waived its normal requirement that shareholders be consulted. The shares remain suspended.



Dixons

PC WORLD

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Goldman Sachs's London headquarters in Fleet Street where Peter Sutherland, seen with Tony Blair, will be one of the main beneficiaries of any flotation package



## Bad omens

WHATEVER happens after Tuesday's vote by Life members for electronic trading, the omens on the jobs front are bad. My spy tells me that, for technical reasons, redundancies come at predictable intervals, when the three-monthly contracts roll over. The various June contracts are now rolling over to September: the first one went on June 4 and the long gilt goes on June 25. Thereafter there is less for those gaudy blazers to do.

It starts the two of us arguing over which event launched Liffe on its long decline. I go for the 15th anniversary celebrations almost exactly a year ago, when the market took over Syon House for a bash that reportedly cost more than a million quid. It coincided with the worst electrical storm of the summer: the gods were angry.

He says no, the decline started with that statue of a Liffe trader at the building on Dowgate Hill. This graven image was unveiled on October 1. "The Greeks had a name for it, you know: hubris."



who is renowned for ensuring he is back at his Holland Park home at a civilised time most days has been exporting this admirable work ethic to the Arts Council. At Granada's financial briefing yesterday he said meetings had been known to sprawl across as much as nine hours as the luvvies — not his word — argued among themselves. The most recent was over in an hour and a half.

## Bugbear

AN ALARMING advert from the Millennium Experience, the operator of the Dome, is seeking a "Year 2000 Compliance Manager". In other words, someone to make sure any millennium bug in the computers there does not make the whole thing grind to a halt on January 1, shortly after it opens, if it opens on time. Is it not a bit late to start worrying about this? Shouldn't all the computers, by definition on a new project like this, be state of the art and properly debugged?

## TV pundit

AN ENTIRELY believable story reaches me about Nigel Hawkins, utilities analyst at Williams de Broe. Hawkins also covers quoted football companies because, like 97.5 per cent of the population these days, he is a passionate football supporter. A few weeks ago his TV packed up, emitting sound but no vision. Clearly in this of all summers he needed a new set, so he went along to the fire sale of assets held by his previous employer, Yamaichi International, and bought one there. (Don't ask me why, Nigel is like that). A few days ago it packed up. The sound went.

Anyone else would have simply bought another one. Nigel, my source says, is using them in tandem, or rather, one on top of the other. The sadist in me means that I rang as close to 4.30 yesterday as I could to check this. "You'll be expecting me to say he's in the nearest bar watching the match," said the person who picked up the phone wearily. "Actually, he's in Canada."

MARTIN WALLER



"You tell him — I find it too embarrassing"

# To float or not to float: that's the \$25bn question for investment bank

Oliver August assesses the riches in store for partners as Goldman Sachs considers a listing

Momentous decisions are often taken far away from centre stage. The prime Minister withdraws to Chequers to ponder matters of state. Hitler prepared his evil whirlwind from a mountain refuge in Berchtesgarden.

This weekend the 200 partners of Goldman Sachs will gather in Rye Brook, a leafy town in upstate New York far away from the bustle of Wall Street, to consider the most important decision in the investment bank's 129-year history.

The top executives are pushing for a flotation of the partnership, a move that would lavish untold riches on them. Envious rivals have speculated that individual payouts could reach \$1 billion (£600 million). Even junior partners may receive close to \$100 million. Among the top earners in London would be Peter Sutherland, the former head of the World Trade Organisation, who was lured to Goldman's Fleet Street offices with a handsome equity package.

After taking thousands of companies around the world public, the elite bankers feel now is the time to perform the same trick on their own business. On Friday or Saturday, the partners will vote on a flotation plan but, despite intense lobbying, the result is far from certain.

Employees describe Goldman as the most political place on Wall Street. The ultimate prize — becoming a partner — is so lucrative that boot-licking is rife. Outside Goldman, career advancement often takes an employee from one company to another and yet another, each time ratcheting up the salary. For Goldman employees, this is not an option. They doggedly cling to their desks and schmooze superiors to

position themselves for the chance to become a partner.

In such a culture, it was inevitable that the question whether to float and how to divide up the spoils would turn into a political brawl. Favours are called in and old loyalties are being invoked. The 200 partners are split into several groups with widely differing interests.

Broadly, they fall into two camps: those wanting a flotation this year and those in favour of a flotation at some point in the future. Jam today or jam tomorrow. The jam-tomorrow faction sometimes argues against flotation in principle because it would apparently harm the company. Of course, their opinions could shift in parallel with changes in the spoils system.

The only two partners to have semi-publicly announced their views are Jon Corzine and Henry Paulson, the co-executive chairmen. They are firmly in the float-now camp, not so surprisingly considering that they hold the biggest equity stakes.

Mr Paulson is no stranger to political intrigue. He worked in the Nixon White House during the two years of the Watergate affair between 1972 and 1974 as an aide to John Erlichman, who was sent to prison for 18 months.

Also in the float-now camp are believed to be the two vice-chairmen, Roy Zuckerman, the longest-serving partner, and Robert Hurst. Both are close to retirement and may not see another chance to participate in a flotation.

In the float-later camp are the part-

ners who anticipate sliding a lot further up the shiny golden pole. They can expect to own a larger stake in the company in four or eight years' time. A flotation in 2002 or 2006 would be much more lucrative for them.

The two most senior partners in this camp are believed to be John Thain, the finance director, and John Thornton, the head of the Asian operations. The 42-year-old Thain and the 43-year-old Thornton are widely seen as the heirs apparent to Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson.

A flotation now would not only hurt them financially but leading a publicly traded company later on would also be more difficult for them. They fear they will be handed the leadership baton at a time when many partners want to retire after cashing out in the flotation.

Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson have reasoned with Mr Thain and Mr Thornton that Goldman needs to go public to be able to make acquisitions. The heirs apparent could one day lead a much larger company, the co-executive chairmen believe, if only Goldman had stock to swap. A flotation represents a chance to catch up with Travelers Group and Morgan Stanley who exchanged shares with Citicorp and Dean Witter to form new Wall Street giants.

Insiders at Goldman suggest that Mr Thain's and Mr Thornton's decisions on how to vote this weekend may depend on the exact flotation terms. If the individual payouts are large enough they may be swayed.

The calculation of payouts is more complex than in most other flotations. In part, payouts are dependent on the price tag put on arguably the premier Wall Street house. It could be anywhere between \$25 billion and \$35 billion depending on the book value multiple picked by the investment bankers, anywhere between 2.5 and 5.5. On the balance sheet, Goldman currently has assets of \$6.3 billion. But internal calculations other than valuation also play an important role.

Before floating, Goldman will have to buy back around 60 per cent of its equity from a number of silent partners, including Sumitomo Bank and the Bishop Estate. Their stakes are pegged at book value.

This means they are not strictly entitled to flotation proceeds. Their contracts with Goldman state that, upon flotation, the partners can repurchase the equity at book value. Nevertheless, the silent partners may receive a small payout yet to be negotiated.

Goldman employees below partner level will also demand a share of the profits. There are 211 managing directors who are in line to be made partners. To compensate them for missing out on the ultimate prize they may each receive around \$10 million. Other valued employees could also get goodwill bonuses.

Furthermore, retired partners who voted to delay floating in 1996 may be

entitled to a share of the profits as well. According to rumours, deals were made behind closed doors two years ago to get elderly flotation supporters to back down. In return, they were promised an extra slice of the pie when it finally gets carved up.

At Rye Brook, Mr Thain and Mr Thornton will consider the long list of people who are entitled to part of the spoils. They will need more than the back of an envelope to calculate how much will be left over for them.

Mr Corzine and Mr Paulson are likely to propose measures to prevent a mass post-flotation exodus as happened after Morgan Stanley went public in 1986. Employees wanting to cash out immediately could only do so at a punishing discount rate under terms prepared by the flotation team. While this would bind in partners, thirty-something managing directors may find that sign-on bonuses at rival banks would compensate them adequately.

When voting time approaches, the argument that may finally sway those who are only reluctantly greedy is based on economics. Quite simply, Goldman may not for a long time be as valuable again as it is this year. The bank has announced a string of record profits. In this week's \$34 billion merger of Wells Fargo and Norwest, Goldman advised both sides, earning bumper fees.

It is the banker of choice for troubled countries — from Indonesia to Korea and Russia, desperate central bankers ring 85 Broad Street in Manhattan for help. And the US economy and the stock market are booming. But for how much longer? That is the all important question. And where better to decide than in a sleepy country town far away from mergers, troubled nations and statistics.

# Concerted approach essential to making pay work in the UK

John Philpott warns that linking pay to company productivity can be dangerous for inflation. He advocates introduction of a national forum on wages

Since last week's surprise rise in interest rates, voices questioning Gordon Brown's decision to hand operational responsibility for monetary policy to the Bank of England have grown louder. Those pouring scorn on the Chancellor, however, would be advised to direct their energies instead to the key problem Mr Brown and the Old Lady are grappling with: how to keep pay pressures in check in a tighter jobs market.

Although by UK standards earnings have grown relatively slowly as unemployment has fallen in the 1990s, the fact that private-sector pay is now rising at an annual rate of 5.6 per cent has started to ring alarm bells — and the introduction of the national minimum wage is just around the corner.

It had been hoped that the credibility of the independent Bank would be enough to prevent high pay rises by altering inflationary expectations. But as so often the case in the UK, pay-setters seem relatively immune to the mere threat of tough action: the Bank may thus be forced to keep interest rates higher for longer in order to demonstrate its credibility.

This, of course, runs the risk of grinding the economy to such a halt that unemployment will have to rise quite sharply in order for the Government to meet its inflation target.

A much better solution would be to establish new institutional mechanisms designed to foster a more informed national debate on the outlook for wage and price inflation and to encourage employers to behave in a more concerted manner.

This kind of approach is adopted in different forms in several EU member states and also Japan. It does not provide a panacea to all the economic ills of these countries but nonetheless performs the useful role of helping to control inflation at less cost in terms of unemployment than would otherwise be the case.

Such an approach need not — indeed best not — directly involve government nor require highly centralised wage bargaining. A UK version might involve a national policy forum around the time of the Chancellor's annual autumn pre-Budget report, running alongside the implicit discipline imposed by the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee.

Unfortunately, it is still proving difficult to stimulate debate on these matters in this country. The Government, while acutely aware of the underlying pay problem, is fearful that if it says too much it will be accused of wishing to return to "beer and sandwiches" by those who simplistically associate talk of reform in the area of pay setting with 1970s-style incomes policies. Ministers therefore tread warily, restricting themselves to exhortation on the need for "restraint".

The trade unions, perhaps understandably, prefer to focus on "boardroom excesses", while employers' organisations argue that individual

enterprises should be concerned only with what they pay their own workers and that the out-rush for inflation will be OK so long as individual firms or plants pay no more than is justified by growth in productivity in those firms and plants.

This latter argument is flawed on two counts. First, even in a relatively fragmented system of pay-setting the key influences on pay decisions taken by individual employers remain the headline RPI and what their competitors are paying. Together these influences result in a "going rate" or range of pay increases, still a fact of life in the labour market even though people talk as though

it were a thing of the past. But because this going rate is the outcome of a process of individual decisions, only by chance will it result in an outcome consistent with the Government's inflation target.

Secondly, the fashionable view that it is OK if individual firms match pay with productivity is likely to lead to a poor outcome for inflation. While the pay of individual workers should reflect their individual productivity, the fruits of higher productivity in firms and plants should, at least in part, be passed on in the form of reduced prices to consumers or ploughed back into investment, rather than fully paid out to workers. Such gains are normally the result of many factors — such as the introduction of new technologies — not just increased worker effort.

But even more worrying from the point of view of inflation pressures, if high-productivity firms offer high pay increases, employers elsewhere in the jobs market, in firms with lower productivity, will have to respond in order to keep or recruit staff, thereby forcing up the "going rate". And meanwhile workers in the cash-starved public sector will be relatively short-changed, thereby stoking up resentment and recruitment problems.

The fashion for linking pay to individual firm productivity is therefore a classic case of business short-termism — not

good for consumers, harmful to competitiveness and potentially damaging to growth — and jobs if it leads to higher interest rates.

The appropriate "guiding principle" for affordable pay-setting is of course that economy-wide growth in average nominal earnings should not exceed underlying growth in whole economy productivity by more than the Government's 2.5 per cent inflation target — which at present means no higher than round 4.5 per cent.

The Bank's quarterly *Inflation Report* has done much to highlight this principle. But what is urgently required now is a structured way of establishing the principle — and forcing home the point that if interest rate rises temporarily raise the RPI in order to keep underlying inflation in check this should not automatically be matched by higher pay. More generally employers should also be persuaded of the merits of taking a more concerted approach so that the going rate that is inevitably established in the jobs market is affordable from the point of the national economy.

Unless swift action is taken to "make pay work" control of inflation will prove less friendly to growth and jobs than need be — an unsavoury fact but one that may come into sharper focus in the coming months. Remember this the next time you hear someone berating the Government or the Bank of England, and ask yourself where the balance of responsibilities really lies.

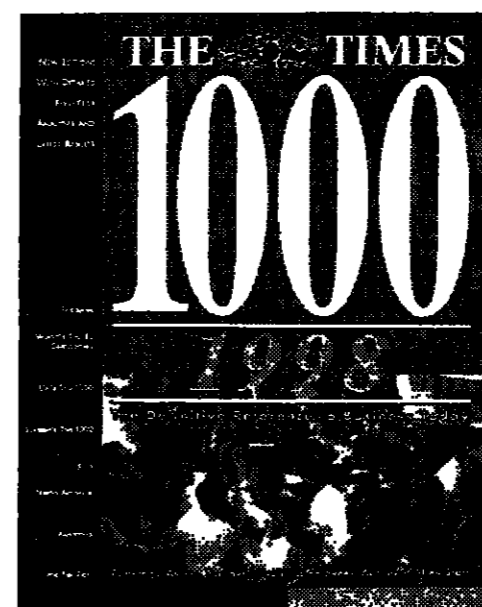
John Philpott is director of the Employment Policy Institute



Bank of England: pay worry

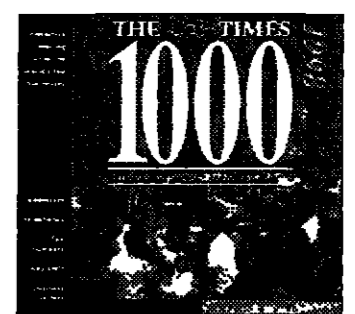
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### PIA fines Financial Options Group £400,000

By Gavin Lumsden

THE Personal Investment Authority has imposed £400,000 of fines on the Financial Options Group, a national network of financial advisers.

The PIA ordered the Manchester-based group to pay £250,000 after an inspection visit last year revealed that it was providing insufficient resources to carry out its review of personal pension mis-selling.

Financial Options was one of five firms exposed by the Treasury in May for selling less than half of its mis-selling cases. Of its 340 most urgent cases it had resolved only three.

In its statement on the pensions review the PIA said the firm had not provided accurate or adequate information to its appointed representatives. Neither had it checked the veracity of information sent by representatives as to the progress of the review.

The financial services watchdog also imposed a £150,000 penalty on the firm for serious breaches in the organisation of its investment business. The PIA said investment Options, a subsidiary, had failed to have adequate arrangements to ensure clients were recommended suitable investments. It also found grave faults in the firm's recruitment, training and supervision of representatives. Despite assurances from the firm that remedial action had been taken, the PIA discovered there had been no change a year later.

The group, which was ordered to pay £87,000 costs, has since restructured its management and hired consultants to solve the problems. The PIA is to conduct another inspection soon.



Graham Hawker, chief executive, described the level of windfall tax paid by Hyder — 24 per cent of market value — as harsh and unfair

## Uncertainty on price changes fuels Hyder dividend review

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

HYDER, the Welsh multi-utility, yesterday gave warning that its dividend policy is under review because of concerns over "considerable uncertainties that surround the forthcoming regulatory price reviews".

The company faces price reviews for both its water operation and electricity distribution. The new pricing regime for water — due to be announced next year and implemented the year after — is worrying water businesses because of signals from the

regulator that he is likely to impose a tough one-off cut in bills.

Paul Twamley, finance director, said: "We wanted to point out that we need to keep the dividend policy open while there is so much uncertainty."

Hyder said its dividend policy would be under review for the current financial year and for subsequent periods. The total for the year to March 31 was lifted 11.3 per cent to 48.9p although the payout is to be delayed until April 6 — after the abolition of advance

corporation tax. The payment will include 1.5p compensation for late payment and a scrip alternative will be available on October 6. The final dividend payment is 32.7p. Hyder shares fell 24½p to 98½p, against a 12-month high of £10.48½.

Hyder is 166 per cent geared after part payment of what Graham Hawker, chief executive, described as a "harsh and unfair" level of windfall tax. The company said that its charge of £281.9 million represented 24 per cent of market

value compared with an average of 10 per cent for the rest of the water industry. When it pays the second instalment of the tax, Hyder's gearing will be 185 per cent and is likely to climb to 200 per cent by the millennium because of capital investment.

Mr Twamley also voiced fears about the Government's plans to separate electricity distribution and supply. He said the moves, set out in a recent Green Paper, could be a retrograde step and put back inefficiencies into businesses

that had been taking out costs since privatisation. Separation of the two power processes is likely to have a tougher impact on multi-utilities which have merged common operations more than electricity-only companies.

One-off restructuring charges of £40 million last year pushed down pre-tax profits to £168.5 million compared with £208.2 million. Earnings per share before the exceptional restructuring charge and the windfall tax rose to 122.7p from 118.6p.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Aegon expects £306m from bank disposal

AEGON, the Dutch insurance group, expects to book a 1 billion guilder (about £306 million) profit on the sale of Labouchere, its investment banking subsidiary, to AOT Options Traders, the broker. The surprise move, announced yesterday, vaults AOT into fourth place behind ABN Amro, ING and Rabobank in the Dutch market. AOT, an international market-maker, is one of the largest independent players on the AEX Options Exchange and claims a market share of almost 35 per cent on the stock exchange.

Labouchere earned net profits of 73.2 million guilders in 1997. The acquisition is being funded via a hefty share issue that will nearly triple the number of AOT shares in issue. Aegon will retain a stake of up to 25 per cent in the enlarged business, to be named Bank AOT Labouchere. The merger will provide a platform for the rapid expansion of securities and derivatives trading activities.

## Tinsley confident

SHARES in Eliza Tinsley, the engineer, rose from 103½p to 113½p after the group reported a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.7 million in the year to March 31, on sales up 26 per cent to £48.6 million. The dividend for the year rose 5 per cent to 6.4p, out of earnings up 10 per cent to 11.92p. A final dividend of 4.2p was declared. The company said demand for construction equipment remains strong worldwide with European and American demand for agricultural machinery counter-balancing the slower British farm market.

## Vibroplant in black

VIBROPLANT, the specialist plant-hire company, is holding its total dividend at 4.05p in spite of reporting a pre-tax profit of £2.19 million for the year to the end of March, compared with losses of £2.9 million in the previous 12 months. Earnings were 3.37p a share after a 4.2p per share loss last year. The final dividend is unchanged at 2.65p a share. Jeremy Pilkington, the chairman, said the results showed the early benefit of the restructuring that had taken place over the past two years.

## Future Integrated falls

SHARES in Future Integrated Telephony fell 4p to 30½p after the AIM-listed company said that it expected a loss for the year to May 31 of between £900,000 and £1.3 million. Future Integrated announced on May 7 an exclusive agreement with Energis for the company to carry a large volume of local traffic via the Energis network. It said that while the company had commenced connecting customers to the Energis national network, the formal contract with Energis was not expected to be signed until next week.

## Leeds suffers slide

LEEDS GROUP, the textiles dyeing and printing company, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits in the first half and warned shareholders that trading conditions remained uncertain. For the six months to March 31 profits fell to £3.5 million from £5.03 million and earnings fell to 6.6p a share from 8.7p. The interim dividend is maintained at 2.4p. Robert Wade, chairman, said it was not clear whether a modest recovery could be sustained or whether margins could be restored. The shares fell 1p to 84p, against a 12-month high of 140p.

## Philips helpline deal

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, the consumer electronics company, has signed a five-year outsourcing contract with Stiel Corporation, the American group, to provide teleservices and Internet support for all Philips' consumer products. Philips and Stiel expect to operate 13 call centres with a total of 1,100 agents by mid-1999. The agreement covers all incoming requests by consumers for pre-sale information, sales of products and after-sales service requests and questions. Philips receives 16 million consumer calls a year.

## Dee beats Ofwat target

DEE VALLEY, the water company, raised pre-tax profits from £4.56 million to £9.5 million in the year to March 31, on sales up from £13.3 million to £20.3 million. Earnings rose from 30.5p to 51.73p, out of which the dividend rises from 18.0p to 19.8p after payment of a 13.2p final. The company said that leakage had become a priority and that it had managed to reduce the loss of water below the target figure set by Ofwat, the water industry regulator. The shares rose 15p to 500p.

## Blockleys warning

SHARES in Blockleys fell 1p to 48½p after the building materials group said that first-half results would be hit by a refractory failure in the kiln roof at its Heritage Brick factory. Brian Taylor, the chairman, told the annual meeting that the failure led to a loss of output for two weeks, some of which would be recovered during the year by rescheduling holiday periods. He added: "However, the first-half results will feel the impact of the loss of sales resulting from the reduction in output."

## BG success in Egypt

BG's exploration and production unit and Edison International, its partner, have successfully tested two exploration wells drilled in the West Delta deep marine concession in Egypt. The discoveries follow five other successful wells drilled in Egyptian waters by BG and its partners in the past 18 months. Frank Chapman, BG executive director for exploration and production, said: "The two discoveries represent an important milestone for BG's growing gas chain role in Egypt."

## Reorganisation pushes Drummond into £3m loss

By Our City Staff

DRUMMOND, the textile group, suffered a £3.1 million loss in the year to March 31, against a previous £1.5 million profit, largely due to a £3.6 million charge for reorganisation costs.

The group has said already that it will not declare a final dividend leaving the total at 0.5p against 2p previously. Earnings fell from 5.17p to a loss of 16.06p a share. The shares fell 2p to 16p.

Stefan Simmonds, the chairman, said that moves to reorganise John Crowther, the woolen operation, with the loss of 100 jobs does not signal

a wider downsizing operation. John Crowther will be integrated with the worsted operation in Bradford at a cost of £3.6 million.

Mr Simmonds said: "The problems of the industry at the moment are reflected in a lot of what we have to say about our results."

Drummond suffered from the escalating effect of sterling against the currencies of its key European competitors — particularly those in Italy — the targeting of its traditional markets by Asian producers in the wake of their own economic difficulties and the

falling of the UK retail environment.

Mr Simmonds said investors should not forget that Drummond is still the dominant producer of wool-based tailoring fabrics in the UK.

"The underlying trend is positive. We are having to make this major surgery because we don't think the currency imbalances are going to change."

"Once we can raise our game and take our customers into more advanced products they are less vulnerable to Asian or European competition."

## Dawson holds steady in wake of strong sterling

By Martin Barrow



Brown: sustained growth

DAWSON HOLDINGS held underlying pre-tax profits unchanged at £14.7 million in the half year to March 31 in spite of the adverse impact of the strong pound, which reduced profits in the information services division by £700,000.

The company was also affected by integration costs arising from the £32 million purchase of Johnson News, the news wholesale business completed in mid-January. The business is being merged with the company's Surridge Dawson subsidiary to form the UK's third largest newspaper wholesaler.

Pre-tax profits fell to £14.39 million from £16.15 million, although comparable figures for the first half of the previous year included a £1.66 million credit from the sale of ESOP shares. Adjusted earnings fell to 15.9p a share from 17.3p. The interim dividend is lifted 10 per cent to 2.2p a share.

Peter Brown, chairman, said the Johnson acquisition and investment in information services would sustain the underlying growth of the business. The company, shares in which trade on the Alternative Investment Market, has applied for a full listing.

## City caught off guard as Meyer takes £34.5m hit

By Matthew Barbour



Alan Peterson, left, and John Edwards, finance director

MEYER INTERNATIONAL, the building materials group, has seen its pre-tax profits for the year to March 31 rise 20 per cent to £34.5 million before exceptional charges of £34.5 million covering last autumn's purchase of timber merchant Harcros and losses on the disposal of its Dutch unit.

The charges, which come after last month's warning that plunging timber prices had affected the group's operations, were higher than the City had expected. The shares fell 4½p to 425½p yesterday, against a 12-month high of 454p.

The company, which bought Harcros at the end of last year, said it was still

confident of delivering its planned £10 million in savings in the first full year since the acquisition from Harrisons & Crossfield.

Earnings per share, before exceptional items, rose to 27.5p from 23.1p and Meyer has lifted the total dividend to 13p a share from 11.9p, with an 8.5p final.

Jewson, now Britain's biggest builders' merchant after the purchase of Harcros, saw margins of 7 per cent, with estimated like-for-like sales growth of 4.7 per cent.

Integrating Jewson branches with those of Harcros cost the group one week's sales per branch. Alan Peterson, chief executive, said the integration bill, due to be completed by November, would cost about £25 million in branch sales losses.

The cost of buying Harcros was £309 million, against the original estimate of £319 million reported in October.

Mr Peterson said he wanted to add 100 branches to the current 392 Jewson and Harcros operations, all of which would be rebranded under the Jewson umbrella. Plans include developing the Jewson brand name to increase customer loyalty by specialising in new products, such as PVC-coated window frames, and by expanding small tool hire sales.

Mr Peterson said he expected sales to grow by 2.3 per cent in the current financial year, assuming UK interest rates did not rise above 8 per cent.

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# ACCOUNTANCY

## Pension scam goes on and on

Clive Boxer says the Government is encouraging the possibility of further misadvice and mis-selling

The nagging concern of government ministers and financial regulators is that another pension scam may occur. What they may not appreciate is that it is already happening and has been for some time. Worse still, both the Government and, more culpably, the professions who are experts in this field are keeping quiet about it.

The fact is that the Government encourages the possibility of further misadvice and mis-selling of inappropriate pension policies. One would imagine that the leading professions in this field, particularly accountants and solicitors, would be screaming from the rooftops and lobbying for alterations in the law. That they are not doing so is because they share part of the blame for what has occurred and what will occur. They are keeping quiet because it is not in their interests to make a fuss.

When a private individual contributes in accordance with the permitted levels for deduction of the contribution from income for tax purposes, there is relief for tax on the amount of the premium. The recipient, usually an insurance company, will then apply that

premium for the benefit of the investor.

By convention, however, it is normal for the investor's adviser, usually a financial adviser, to be rewarded, by agreement with the investor, by the insurer. The amount of the award is stated but the investor hardly ever quarrels, however large the award compared with the amount of work the financial adviser may have done.

The reason for this is that the commission is tax-deductible so if an investor pays a £5,000 premium to life assurance company A following advice from broker B, the latter will pay over to B (usually it is deducted by B at source before the premium is paid over to A) commission or fee equivalent perhaps to £3,000. The amount left for investment is the balance. But the fee, however unreasonably high, is fully tax-deductible because it has come out of the premium.

Contrast that to the situation where an investor prudently goes to a solicitor or an accountant as well as a financial adviser and accepts liability for their fees and expects the tax-deductible premium to be working wholly for the investor. Then the fees are rendered



Clive Boxer says a change in the law would benefit all

according to time and skill and they may total as much as £3,000 plus VAT. But none of the fees are tax-deductible. They have to be paid out of non-tax relieved resources. This is the law the Government has been applying for the past 12 years.

No wonder financial advisers believe it is in the interests of the investor that they are appointed on a commission basis because the investor gets tax relief if the adviser's fee is paid out of the premium. This is a built-in faultline in the system. It will lead to further problems.

Imagine a broker speaking to an investor and correctly saying: "You are better off if you employ me to find a commission-paying company who pays me out of your premium. You get tax relief for

the premium and of course that includes my fee. If you employ me on a time and skill basis you get no relief but you may get something back from the insurance company out of the investment if you want it. My advice must be that you should get the tax relief for my fee. That will continue for the rest of my working life because I may get commission while you continue to pay premiums." That is what is happening and it is a correct and fair statement and not bad advice.

The Government could change the law to improve the system by making it illegal and subject to a substantial fine for any investment fund to pay an introductory commission to anybody; and making all fees for advice for long-term investments for pension purposes free of VAT and a proper deduction against the tax of the investor in the year in which the initial investment is made.

Accountants and lawyers have not protested at what is going on and is continuing because they are beholden to the insurance brokers and life companies for business. The irony is that all would be better off with the system suggested above and it would do a great deal to improve the image of the life assurance industry and financial advisers generally.

Clive Boxer is a former partner at Davies Arnold Cooper

## The slow progress of 'due process' is daft

IT IS extraordinary how roles have become reversed. Until a year or so ago the accountancy profession was constantly berated by governments to put its house in order. The clear assumption was that professions were tardy laggards, clinging to ancient rights and refusing to be pulled into the modern world. But now, more than a year since this Government swore that action on the two issues of regulation and the liability of accountancy firms was so important that it merited inclusion in the party manifesto, we are still awaiting any sort of action.

A year ago the accountancy profession even had a blueprint ready for an independent regulatory framework. All the civil servants at the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) had to do was to hand the files to their new masters, point out the proposed actions and await a decision which, given the relatively well-aided nature of the proposals, should not have taken long.

There was even an additional incentive for putting the proposals into action. They were designed so that other professions could be brought into the same system with a minimum of fuss, solving nearly all the difficulties which successive governments have had in dealing with the regulation of professions in general.

We are all still waiting and the word is that some sort of response will be made before Parliament rises for its long summer break. But the word is also that this will only be the start of another lengthy and time-consuming process. The proposals put forward by the profession were designed so they could have been in place within eight weeks. That does not seem to be the sort of urgency that the Government believes in. Instead, when the puffs of smoke do finally whiffle out of the DTI's chimney the proposals are expected to be only the start of yet another interminable consultation procedure.

This may be what they will refer to as "due process", but it is daft. The topic has been aired for so long that every possible view from those of Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby, to small practitioners in Penzance is already known. The idea that the DTI is likely to insist on calling them all in and waste months collating those views yet again makes no sense at all. Then, after that, the endless business of drafting legislation will take place. The profession could have

had a system of independent regulation in place by now. It is only the Government's inaction that has prevented it.

The same is true on the matter of liability. All possible views are known. In fact they have been helpfully collated in a report produced by London Economics, the highly respected consultancy. The views conclude that the advantages in reform are huge. "In the absence of appropriate reform of the liability framework," the report says, "there can be adverse effects on the efficient functioning of capital markets and on the governance of corporations. Even small efficiencies in capital markets can have significant economy-wide effects on growth and employment."

They go on to say that "although changes in the liability regime will have subtle effects on the behaviour of auditors, shareholders and others, even small improvements in the functioning of capital markets are likely to have disproportionately large and positive benefits for society".

The proposals are commanding more support in industry, where views have traditionally been hostile. A survey last week by Reed Accountancy Personnel and Accountancy Age showed that while 39 per cent of finance directors supported the idea in 1996 the figure is now up to a simple majority, with 51 per cent in support.

The process of reform of the injustices of the current British liability rules, which would bring them largely into line with reforms already in operation in most other sophisticated business markets around the world, will also be a lengthy one. In the case of liability this is probably unavoidable. But that is simply another argument for the process to start as urgently as possible.

The idea of the roles being reversed and the sight of a rejuvenated accountancy profession trying to shove a constipated government machine into action is a novel one. It is not a scenario with which anyone is familiar. But that is what is happening. At last week's council meeting optimism and the prospect of change and reform sprang out of every pronouncement. When you find someone as sparing of words as Ian Plaistow, of Arthur Andersen, suggesting Chris Swinson, the new president, "has the chance of being one of the great presidents" you know that something remarkable is now possible.



ROBERT BRUCE

### At the court of Dame Sheila

BRIAN CURRIE is probably the most tactful and charming chap on the council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. So it was no surprise that as a distinguished past president and one-time Arthur Andersen partner that the job of proposing Dame Sheila Masters as this year's deputy president fell to him. Dame Sheila is also, as we

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

all know, a charming soul. But she buries this beneath a very fierce exterior indeed. In extolling her virtues, Currie pointed out that Dame Sheila was now the senior non-executive member of the Court of the Bank of England, a role which meant that it would fall to her to chair meetings in the Governor's absence. "I am sure," said Currie, "that the Court prays daily for the Governor's continuing good health."

### Ebling reference

THE English ICA faces another disciplinary conundrum. Paul Ebling, the one-time deputy compliance officer in the asset management arm of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has been suspended for two years by Imro, the industry's watchdog, for his role in the Peter Young affair. As an accountant, Ebling might now expect to face disciplinary action

from his institute, the English ICA. Certainly, it ought to be able to provide a character reference or two. Prior to his Deutsche Morgan Grenfell career, Ebling was on the institute's technical staff.

### To the point

PART of the problem that the Inland Revenue faces over self-assessment is that it is starved of funds for invest-

ment in information technology. The famed "spend-to-save" initiative is more about squeezing more work out of inspectors than building databases that would pinpoint avoidance. As a result, morale is low and one of the Revenue's internal programmes has been renamed by staff. The programme, called Sara for "self-assessing risk assessment", is now known by their initials after staff took to referring to it as the "complete risk-assessment package".

ROBERT BRUCE

### Court of Appeal

## Medical tribunal is not a court

**General Medical Council v British Broadcasting Corporation**  
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Robert Walker  
[Judgment June 10]  
Proceedings before the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council were not legal proceedings before a court for the purposes of contempt of court.  
The Court of Appeal so stated when giving reasons for dismissing on May 28 the appeal of the General Medical Council from an order made by Mr Justice Patten-Davey on May 23.  
The judge had dismissed the GMC's application for an injunction against the British Broadcasting Corporation to postpone transmission of a television current affairs programme, *Panorama*, related to disciplinary proceedings being heard in the GMC's professional conduct committee against three doctors and expected to contain controversial interviews and comment and (ii) dismissed its application for a declaration that the committee was a court within the meaning of the Contempt of Court Act 1981.  
Mr Roger Henderson, QC and

Miss Rosalind Foster for the GMC; Mr Manuel Barca for the BBC.  
LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER, giving the judgment of the court, said that there were two main issues before the judge:  
1 Were the proceedings before the professional conduct committee legal proceedings before a court for the purposes of the law as to criminal contempt of court?  
2 If so, would transmission of the *Panorama* programme at the present time create a "substantial risk that the course of justice in the proceedings in question will be seriously impeded or prejudiced" (section 2(2) of the 1981 Act) so as to make injunctive relief appropriate?  
The judge had held that the professional conduct committee was not a court within the meaning of the 1981 Act, and that, in any event, the evidence fell well short of establishing any substantial risk of serious prejudice to the course of justice.  
A third issue was also raised below and in the Court of Appeal, namely whether the High Court had inherent jurisdiction, apart from its jurisdiction to prevent or punish contempt of court, to restrain activities which threatened to impede or prejudice the proper

functioning of a tribunal which was not a court of law, a non-curial tribunal, but which performed functions of a judicial character and the proper functioning of which was a matter of public importance.  
The first issue turned partly on the common law as to criminal contempt of court, and partly on section 19 of the 1981 Act which defined court as including "any tribunal or body exercising the judicial power of the state".  
Although the definition applied at first sight only for statutory purposes, it had a wider significance: see *Pickering v Liverpool Daily Post* [1991] 2 AC 370, 380.  
The expression "the judicial power of the state" clearly reflected the language of the House of Lords in *Attorney-General v BBC* [1981] AC 303, 353, 356-7 which held that a local valuation court established for rating purposes was not a court in law or of law and so was not an inferior court for the purposes of Order 52, rule 1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.  
Mr Henderson emphasised the importance attached by Lord Scarman to purpose and the distinction drawn by all their Lordships between judicial and administrative functions. He

submitted, correctly, that the professional conduct committee had to adjudicate in a formal and judicial manner on serious issues of public importance which might also have the gravest effect on the reputation and career of an accused medical practitioner.  
Mr Henderson was correct in submitting that the professional conduct committee was exercising a sort of judicial power, but in their Lordships' judgment, it was not the judicial power of the state which was being exercised.  
In *Attorney-General v BBC* the valuation court was part of the state's machinery of government, but administrative in part, and that explained the emphasis which the House of Lords had placed on the distinction between judicial and administrative functions or purposes.  
In the present case, by contrast, the professional conduct committee was a statutory committee of a professional body specially incorporated by statute.  
It exercised a function which was recognisably a judicial function and did so in the public interest. It acted in accordance with the procedural rules which had close similarities to those followed in courts of law.  
Nevertheless it was not part of the judicial system of the state, instead it was exercising, albeit with statutory sanction, the self-regulatory power and duty of the medical profession to monitor and maintain standards of professional conduct.  
For those reasons the court was against the GMC on the first issue.  
The court also considered that the judge was correct in his view on the second issue.  
On the third issue, Mr Henderson submitted that it would be a serious blot on the law if there were no redress against even the most blatant interference with a non-curial tribunal which had serious functions of a judicial nature to perform, but was not a court for the purposes of the law of contempt.  
He submitted that the High Court did have jurisdiction to prevent such interference: see *Attorney-General v BBC* (at p344). However, the court was not referred to any authority in which such a jurisdiction had ever been exercised, either at the suit of the Attorney-General, or at the suit of a private litigant.  
It might well be that grave and obvious interference with proceedings before a non-curial tribunal could and would be restrained at the suit of the Attorney-General as guardian of the public interest. It seemed much more doubtful whether a private litigant could obtain such relief.  
It was not necessary to consider the third issue since the jurisdiction, if it existed, would become exercisable only in a clear case of grave interference.  
Solicitors: Field Fisher Waterhouse; Mr Glenn Del Medico; Shepherd's Bush.

### Law Report June 11 1998

## Primary purpose used for rating

**Russell v Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Co Ltd**  
Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Walker and Lord Justice Robert Walker  
[Judgment May 22]  
Where the primary purpose of a hereditament, comprising a waste incineration unit, electricity generating plant and pipeline, was the burning of refuse, and the ratepayer secondarily ran a scheme for the production for sale of both electrical power and heat, the primary purpose of the hereditament as a whole could not be said to have anything to do with "a scheme for the production for sale of both electrical power and heat" and was not "in connection with" such a scheme within the meaning of article 3(2)(a)(ii) of the Electricity Generators (Rateable Values) (Amendment) Order (SI 1999 No 2474), as amended.  
Accordingly, the hereditament was to be rated as an ordinary hereditament and not according to the formula contained in article 4(1)(b) of the 1989 Order, as amended.  
The Court of Appeal so held by a majority (Lord Justice Robert Walker dissenting) in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by Mr Anthony M. Russell, Coventry District Valuation Officer, against the decision of the Lands Tribunal on December 19, 1996 that refuse destructor, power generation plant

and pipeline with apparatus premises at Bar Road, Coventry, owned by the ratepayer, Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Co Ltd, came within article 3(2)(a)(ii) and should have a rateable value of £146,034.  
Article 3 of the 1989 Order, as amended by article 4 of the Gas and Electricity Industries (Rateable Values) (Amendment) Order (SI 1990 No 804) and article 2 of the Electricity Industry (Rateable Values) (Amendment) Order (SI 1999 No 959) provides:  
(1) This order applies to any non-domestic hereditament in relation to which the conditions in paragraph (2) are fulfilled...  
(2) ... (a) the hereditament is used ... for the purposes of generating electricity, where - (i) such use is its sole or primary function; or (ii) its primary function is in connection with a scheme for the production for sale of both electrical power and heat; or (iii) its primary source of energy is the burning of refuse; and (b) the generating plant ... (i) if its primary source of energy is the burning of refuse, and neither paragraph (i) nor paragraph (ii) of sub-paragraph (a) applies, has a declared net capacity of 25MW or more; or (iii) has a declared net capacity of 500kW or more.  
Mr David Holgate, QC, for the valuation officer, Mr David Mole, QC, for the ratepayer.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said that the site was used for the receipt and incineration of waste. When it opened in 1976 some surplus heat was transferred by a pipeline to a nearby factory.  
In 1992 and 1993 an electricity generating plant, with a net capacity of 11.4MW, was constructed on the site using some of the surplus heat from the incinerators to generate electricity, some of which was sold to the electricity supply industry.  
The following matters were not in issue: (i) the whole of the site constituted a hereditament used for the purposes of generating electricity; (ii) the ratepayer had a scheme for the production for sale of both electrical power and heat; (iii) the primary source of energy in relation to the generating plant was the burning of refuse; and (iv) the net capacity was below 25 megawatts but above 500 kilowatts.  
The hereditament only qualified for rating by reference to the formula in article 4 if article 3(2)(a) applied.  
The Lands Tribunal found that although the primary function of the hereditament was the disposal of refuse, since there was also a scheme for the production for sale of both electrical power and heat that was sufficient to bring the hereditament within article 3(2)(a)(ii).

If that was right, any hereditament whose primary function had nothing to do with the production for sale of electrical power and heat, but where there was secondarily run such a scheme, would come within article 3(2)(a)(ii). That was unlikely to have been the intention of Parliament.  
That absurd result would not follow if the words "primary function in connection with such a scheme" meant that at least part of the primary function had to have something to do with a scheme for the production for sale of both electrical power and heat.  
"Having to do with" was the way in which "in connection" must have been intended to be used in the sub-paragraph. Accordingly, the question was whether the primary function of the hereditament had to do with the scheme for production for sale of electrical power and heat.  
Once one posed that question, the answer was clear. The primary function of the hereditament did not have anything to do with the scheme for the production of electrical power and heat.  
The primary function was simply the disposal of refuse.  
Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Robert Walker delivered a dissenting judgment.  
Solicitors: Solicitor, Inland Revenue; Stephenson Harwood.

## Court's power to anticipate injunction claim

**Greenwich Healthcare National Health Service Trust v London Quadrant Housing Trust and Others**  
Before Mr Justice Lightman  
[Judgment May 22]  
The court had jurisdiction to grant a declaration that the dominant owner of a right of way who had yet to assert his claim to an injunction to prevent the servient owner from realigning the right of way was not entitled to it.  
Mr Justice Lightman so held in the Chancery Division in a reserved judgment, when granting the plaintiff, Greenwich Healthcare National Health Service Trust, a declaration that the defendants, London and Quadrant Housing Trust, the London Bor-

ough of Greenwich, Cavendish Kerrington Plc, Kerrington Developments III plc, Eurocity Properties plc, Parkdon Ltd, London Electricity plc, Annington Property Ltd and the Secretary of State for Defence, were not entitled to claim an injunction if and when the plaintiff, as part of a proposed development, realigned a road over which the defendants enjoyed a right of way, so that it ran over land in respect of which the eighth defendant, Annington Property Ltd, was entitled to the benefit of a restrictive covenant.  
Mr George Laurence, QC and Mr Nicolas Terras for the plaintiff; Mr Joseph Harper, QC for the eighth defendant; the other defendants did not appear and were not represented.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that even if the defendants had a cause of action, they had no right to an injunction to restrain the plaintiff from proceeding with the realignment, since it was necessary to achieve an object of substantial public importance and value, namely making a dangerous road junction safe.  
The question arose whether the court had jurisdiction to grant a declaration that if the plaintiff proceeded with the development, the defendants had no entitlement to an injunction in respect of any interference with, inter alia, their right of way.  
His Lordship was satisfied that the court had jurisdiction to grant the declarations. The declarations sought extended not to the entitlement of the defendants to proprietary rights or the benefit of restrictive covenants, but to their entitlement to the equitable remedy of an injunction. The jurisdiction of the court to grant declarations had to extend to entitlement both to proprietary rights and to particular remedies.  
The circumstances in which the declaration might be properly exercisable in the case of declarations as to entitlement to particular remedies might be rare, but circumstances might exist when a declaration that a defendant was not entitled to an injunction was necessary if a period of damaging uncertainty was to be avoided.  
Solicitors: Dibb Lupton Alsop; Nabarro Nathanson.

## Correct comparator for disabled employee

**Clark v Novacold Ltd**  
Before Mr Justice Morison, Mr P. Dawson and Mr J. C. Shrigley  
[Judgment May 22]  
The correct comparator with an employee who was dismissed because he would be absent from work for a year owing to a disability falling within section 1 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 was someone who could have been off work for the same length of time but for a non-disablement reason.  
Such a comparator would possess all the characteristics of the applicant save for the fact of disability, and therefore a comparison between them would prove whether the difference in treatment was due to the applicant's disability.  
The Employment Appeal Tribunal upheld the decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at Hull on the indemnification of the proper comparator when considering whether the applicant, Mr D. Clark, had been treated less favourably on account of his disability within the meaning of section 5(1) of the Act by his employers, Novacold Ltd.  
However, the appeal tribunal considered that the industrial tribunal ought to have had regard to section 5(2) of the Act, whether the employers were in breach of their duty to make adjustments to

accommodate the applicant within their employment, and the case would be remitted to them to consider that issue.  
Section 5 of the 1995 Act provides: "(1) An employer discriminates against a disabled person if - (a) for a reason which relates to the disabled person's disability, he treats him less favourably than he treats or would treat others to whom that reason does not or would not apply."  
Mr Neil A. Cameron for the applicant; Mr Peter Othman for the employers.  
MR JUSTICE MORISON said that the reason for the applicant's absence from work related to his disability; one could not separate the fact of disability from its consequences. Thus his inability to attend work was part and parcel of his disability.  
In reality, a person who was unable to attend work as the applicant would almost certainly be suffering from a similar disability. The "reason which relates to" the applicant's disability was his inability to attend work.  
Therefore, it was submitted, the comparator had to be a person to whom that reason did not apply, namely a person who did not have an inability to attend work. It was the inability of a person to do the job which was important, not the reason for it.  
Comparing the applicant to another person who was unable to do his job for another reason failed

to take into account the fact that the inability was disability related, and therefore the comparison should be with the norm.  
The appeal tribunal considered that as a matter of pure construction the words "that reason" were capable of referring to the words "a reason" or "a reason which relates to the disabled person's disability". On balance and without great confidence, they were inclined to prefer the latter construction. Had Parliament wished to legislate so as to require the tribunal to use a comparator to whom the same reason applied but not due to a disability it would have said so in clearer terms. The approach adopted by the industrial tribunal would produce less difficulty in practice.  
It was the appeal tribunal's view that the applicant's case should have been based upon section 5(2), namely a breach by the employers of their duty to make adjustments to accommodate him within their employment.  
The appeal tribunal also rejected the submission that section 6, the duty to make adjustments, had no application to a case where an employee was complaining of dismissal. The case would be remitted to the industrial tribunal to consider whether there was discrimination under section 5(2).  
Solicitors: Stamp Jackson & Procter, Hull; Clarks, Reading.

## Single hunt charge

**Nelder and Others v Director of Public Prosecutions**  
In bringing a charge under section 68(1) of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 for disrupting or deterring the activity of a hunt, disrupting and deterring were overlapping concepts and did not need to be charged separately.  
The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Hooper) so held on June 3, dismissing an appeal by June 3, dismissing an appeal by Simon Taylor, Daniel Thurley, Zineb Coumadi, Christopher Reese,

Stefan Reed, Lee Steadman, Nicholas Penn, Katie Thomas and Darren Calley against their conviction before Mr M. F. James, the Corby stipendiary magistrate, on January 21, 1998, for intentionally deterring, obstructing or disrupting the Woodland Pheasant Hunt at Gretton, Northants on April 5, 1997.  
LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that merely because Parliament had criminalised an act with three effects the three effects did not need to be the subject of three separate charges.

MR JUSTICE HOOPER said that the defendant's conduct was a single act which had three effects. The three effects were overlapping concepts and did not need to be charged separately.  
The defendant's conduct was a single act which had three effects. The three effects were overlapping concepts and did not need to be charged separately.

Business Roundup  
expects £300m  
bank disposal  
confident  
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by sector (e.g., EQUITY, BOND, MONEY MARKET, SPECIALIST). Each entry includes the fund name, price, and percentage change.

Advertisement for 'Your Clinic For Men Bonus Exclusive to Selfridges.' Includes an image of a man and text about exclusive offers at Selfridges & Co. Oxford Street London.

Vertical advertisement for 'THE TIMES' featuring various product categories: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, and CONSTRUCTION.

Early losses halved

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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FILM All my own work: Duvall's triumph PAGE 39

# THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

A proper company ensemble

PAGE 40



## Long haul to director's chair

It is notoriously difficult to get a first feature film made. Yet British first features on screen so far this year have ranged from work by well-known names such as Sean Mathias, Alan Rickman and Peter Howitt to films from unknowns, including Shane Meadows (*Twenty Four Seven*) and Carine Adler (*Under the Skin*).

Next month sees the opening of *Moja*, adapted from his Royal Court hit play by the first-time director Jez Butterworth, and *Guru* in 7 from the new Asian British writer/director Shani Grewal. Some, such as *The Full Monty*, due for re-release later this month, become big hits and the foundation of flourishing new careers, while others sink without trace.

And this week three first feature films open in Britain: *The Scarlet Tunic*, *The Big Swap* and *The Girl with Brains in Her Feet* (see review, right). They illustrate totally different kinds of story, filmmaker and ways of getting that first film on screen.

*The Girl with Brains in Her Feet* is about a 13-year-old girl coping with the traumas of adolescence in 1972, and is inspired by the teenage years of its 38-year-old writer Jo Hodges. Hodges and the film's 35-year-old director Roberto Bangura are both, like the central character of the film, of mixed race. One of the strengths of the film, though, is that race isn't an issue, but just one of its elements.

"There's only one black character in the film," emphasises Bangura. "One of the things that appealed to me was that it didn't seem to have an agenda, like so many films with black people do."

"Both of us wanted to do a good film which people would enjoy," adds Hodges. "The fact that it's about a mixed-race girl is secondary. We actually turned down money from people who wanted us to make it more politically correct."

Hodges and Bangura met at

Carol Allen meets three British movie-makers who have debut feature films released this week

the National Film School in 1995, when Bangura was graduating and Hodges just starting her course. Bangura's agent put the script round town: it was taken up by producer Don Boyd's Lexington Films and the film started its 21-day shoot in August 1996 with a modest budget of just under £1 million.

Niall Johnson, the 33-year-old writer, producer and director of *The Big Swap*, has earned his living since leaving university making corporate training videos. He has also written four previous screenplays. Using his own money he shot one on video and hawked it around along with his other scripts.

One of them caught the interest of a distributor. But as the putative budget for the project escalated, Johnson realised there was no way he would be allowed to direct it, even if it happened. He then wrote *The Big Swap*, the story of a group of thirtysomethings who engage in partner swapping, with disastrous consequences. "Although there's a lot of sex in the first half hour, the film is about what happens afterwards," Johnson explains.

Johnson's distributor contact was uninterested in this new project, so Johnson decided to finance the film himself.

via a variation on the deferred payment method used by *Leon the Pig Farmer* a few years ago. Using his own savings, credit cards and an overdraft, plus one private investor and a presale of UK television rights, Johnson managed to find £90,000 and a lot of goodwill, which included a post-production house offering free facilities against a share of possible future profits. His cast and crew agreed to accept nominal salaries, again on a profit share basis, and the film started shooting in 1996 in a converted Bristol warehouse.

Around the same time, Stuart St Paul's *The Scarlet Tunic*, a costume drama based on a Hardy short story, was going before the cameras in Dorset. The 43-year-old St Paul has enjoyed a varied career, from radio DJ to stunt co-ordinator and second unit director on feature films.

He too had been trying for a long time to make that first feature film, getting as far as a Hollywood offer, which later fell apart, to direct a thriller he had written. *The Scarlet Tunic* was brought to him by two new young producers. The three of them decided to finance the film by offering shares to members of the public through the Enterprise Investment Scheme, a tax-

friendly method which minimises risks to small investors. Investors were also offered a taste of the glamour of filmmaking. "Some of them visited the set," St Paul remembers. "They had the right to be extras if they wanted to, and were invited to a big premiere in Dorchester with the actors."

The sum of £354,000 was raised via the EIS, and St Paul went into production with a cast led by the French actor Jean Marc Barr and including Simon Callow, Emma Fielding, John Sessions, Jack Shepherd and comedian Gareth Hale. "I wanted to show that I could direct performances," says St Paul. "So I thought if I got a good cast and concentrated on the emotional core, I wouldn't need to get involved with traditional costume drama set pieces, which I couldn't afford anyway."

St Paul's cast are largely well known from television. The actors in *The Big Swap*, while all professionals, are unknown — and the quality of their performances points up the large pool of under-used talent available.

Through a friend of one of those actors Johnson found his distributor, without which his film could still be languishing on the shelf. For *The Girl with Brains in Her Feet*, with an established producer like Don Boyd, distribution was not a problem. Stuart St Paul decided to distribute *The Scarlet Tunic* himself.

"Most distributors have very few openings for independent films," he explains. As part of his strategy, he negotiated a number of preview short runs throughout the West Country last November, where the film took £45,000 and uncovered an audience which does not normally go to the cinema in great numbers.

"We're largely hitting the 35-plus age group," says St Paul. "The same audience that *Mrs Brown* appealed to. There aren't that many films made for them and they're pleased to find one that is."

Despite problems, much new British talent is evident

2 FOR 1 CINEMA TICKET OFFER

Bored already with football on the telly? From June 22 to July 9 Times readers can get two tickets for the price of one at UCI Cinemas. Collect the token in this Saturday's edition of Metro



Mark Adams and Jackie Sawiris in *The Big Swap*, written, produced and directed by 33-year-old Niall Johnson

## At the Bulgarian television festival, Hettie Judah discovers that the local culture refuses to lie down and die Cultural revolution pops out of the box

Cannes, shm Cannes: to find out what the world will really be watching next year, forget the big screens of the Mediterranean; television on the Black Sea is a far more telling litmus test of global viewing tastes. Does Cannes feature RTV Tyumen (Siberia)? Teleradio Moldova? Croatian HRT? I think not. But as a member of the jury for the Golden Antenna Television, Music and Entertainment Festival, Bulgaria, I can proudly disclose that we did. The Cannes jury may have had Martin Scorsese; we had Russian rock superstar Philip Kirkorov who, with a fan base of about 300 million, probably beats the American director

hands down for international name recognition.

Watching 60 hours of very foreign television effects a bizarre change of perception. In my memory, the ephemera of conflict had marked out many of the countries in competition as unmistakably alien, their citizens representable by screaming widows and crippled children. Sifting through hours of their sitcoms and children's television made the Balkan conflict, in particular, seem radically more local than it had ever felt at the time.

Under the guidance of George Kouzmos, the Golden Antenna has built up a steady international following, and now attracts submissions

from all over Europe and the former Soviet Union; although not from the BBC, who, my fellow jurors (Israeli, Swiss, Russian) informed me, have something of a reputation for condescension. After developing an unwelcome name for piracy, Bulgarian television is now booming, thanks partially to the temporary death of the film industry. Once the powerhouse of East European film production, Bulgaria produced only one independent movie last year.

Cable television networks have ramped into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and the arrival of MTV, Fox, Discovery and their like has had an interest-

ing effect on, among other things, new Bulgarian theatre. "The MTV culture has changed everything," says Margarita Dimitrova, director of Bulgaria's prestigious Apollonia Arts Festival. "Theatre performances have become like clips [pop videos]; two months ago *Hamlet* was performed in this way and it was an enormous success."

While this appropriation of video culture may sound like a wide-eyed embrace of all things West European, in reality the new experimental style makes perfect sense.

Bulgaria, birthplace of Orpheus, has more exceptional musicians than you can shake a stick at. Chat up any pretty young thing in a Sofia bar and he or she will inevitably turn out to be a virtuoso violinist or an award-winning folk singer. The new style exploits this phenomenon by mixing theatre and music into a kind of dramatic cabaret. Unlike MTV proper, new theatre is playing loud and saying something. A recent hit production

of Eric Bogosian's *Sex, Drugs and Rock & Roll* interspersed rock hypocrisy with cutting vignettes, including a speech by a vulgar American millionaire, who, as he surveys his Olympic-style swimming pool, justifies his expenditure: "People all over Russia and Eastern Europe dream of having a lifestyle like mine, and I would hate to disappoint them." The irony cut harder than it ever could have in the American original.

Saïre is thriving in the wake of *Kanaleto*, an audacious comedy show that has enjoyed top ratings for the past seven years; its presenter is now said to be more famous than the President. In the format of a topical news programme, *Kanaleto*'s humour is painfully on the edge; a recent episode featured the "residents" of a southeastern province worshipping Robin Cook who, since placing an embargo on neighbouring Serbia, had effectively wiped out their economic rivals.

## A fair cop, not a great one

**NEW ON VIDEO**

**■ COP LAND**  
*Buena Vista, IS, 1997*  
"THEY made themselves a place where the shit couldn't touch them," Robert De Niro's Internal Affairs investigator tells us. That place is Garrison, New Jersey, cushy home of hard-bitten New York cops, plus one ambulant sheriff, deaf in one ear. At first he turns a blind eye to their corruption; but since he is played by Sylvester Stallone, he is eventually roused to action. This second feature from James Mangold, director of *Heavy*, pretends to be more thoughtful than it really is, though there is enough small-town atmosphere and incisive acting to carry the film along. The powerhouse cast also includes Harvey Keitel, Ray Liotta, Michael Rapaport and Annabella Sciorra. Available to rent.

**■ IT HAPPENED HERE**  
*BFI Video, PG, 1963*  
KEVIN BROWNLOW'S name has become so associated with restorations of silent films that his own achievements as a film director tend to be forgotten. He began early, in his teens, with this adventurous "what if" fantasy, about Britain under Nazi occupation, made with Andrew Mollo. The secret of its success lies in the eye for detail: watching these black-and-white images, it is hard to imagine it did not happen here. The team's only other feature, *Winstanley* (1975), is also available: a visually scrumptious and painstakingly researched account of the Diggers' commune during the English civil war.

**■ FACE**  
*CIC, IS, 1997*  
ROBERT CARLYLE, Ray Winstone, Philip Davis and Steven Waddington form a band of thieves who fall out in time-honoured fashion after a raid on a money-counting depot. Director Antonia Bird and her scriptwriter try to disguise the ordinary plot with some specious political comment. Still, the black humour is very tasty, and some action sequences are punchy enough to bring sweat to your brow. The cast, too, offer very good value, with the possible exception of Damon Albarn, lead singer of Blur, who drifts in and out as the gang's young recruit. Available to rent.

**■ THE TENDERNESS OF WOLVES**  
*Connoisseur, IS, 1973*  
BELIEVE it or not, it is all true: there was once a German serial killer, Hanover's version of Sweeney Todd, who murdered young boys, sucked their blood and sold what was left as meat during the Depression years. Fassbinder protegee Uli Lommel shifts the gruesome story to the late 1940s and introduces black-comedy elements: though the overriding impression is of a stately, poetic and obviously low-budget exploration of the nature of evil in German society. Kurt Raab casts an authentic chill as the bald-headed psychopath.

**■ INVENTING THE ABBOTS**  
*Fox Pathe, PG, 1997*  
AN OVERLY solemn and strangely old-fashioned drama, set in sunny, small-town Illinois in the late 1930s, where the working-class Holt brothers share adolescent pains with the three daughters of the

wealthy Abbott family. The cast includes Joaquin Phoenix, Billy Crudup, Will Patton and Liv Ullmann, but nobody is allowed to be too exciting. Pat O'Connor directs. Available to rent.

## Stop the theme machine

At this time of national football obsession, it is difficult to focus on such trivial matters as the future of Radio 3. So I won't. But if you can spare a few moments from agonising over who should play in midfield for Nigeria, we could perhaps discuss whether Radio 3 is turning into an audio theme park.

The evidence suggests that Radio 3 is a junkie for themes. I do not mean that perfectly respectable device, the series title. What I mean is that relatively modern phenomenon, the themed series. And, of course, its even more recent offspring, the themed series within a themed series.

When Radio 3 launched *Sounding the Century*, I praised a project that has been ambitious and, in some of its manifestations, memorable. I felt it was right that the principal serious music network should attempt to record a century of cultural activity and I still think so.

**RADIO**

But has my encouragement gone to the schedulers' heads? They seem now to have decided that if there is anything better than a theme, it is a theme within a theme, preferably under an umbrella.

These worries surfaced recently with the launch of *Inventing America*, which mirrors the season of the same name at the Barbican in London. This project, which lasts for the whole of June on Radio 3, is making the task of reading the radio listings a good deal more arduous than listening to the programmes.

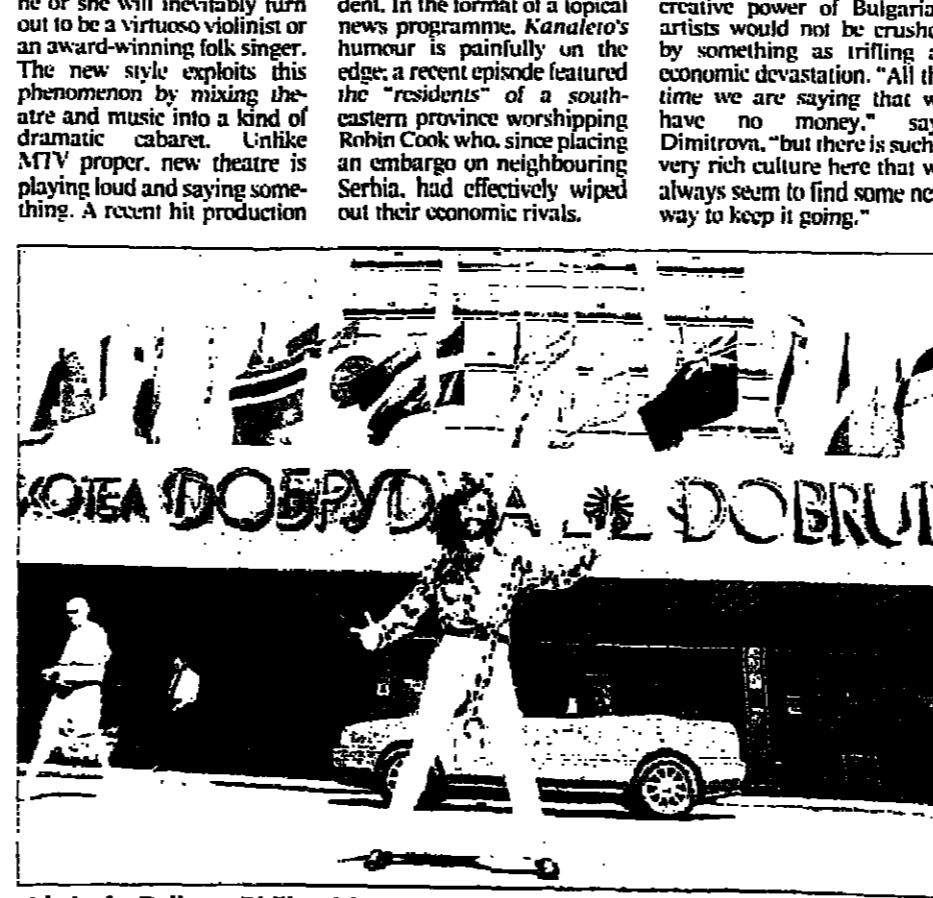
For example, there was an excellent 80 minutes celebrating the stage music of Leonard Bernstein. The programme was called *Side by Side* by... Bernstein. Terrific stuff, but if I were to give this programme its full listing, it would read: *Sounding the Century: Inventing*

*America: Performance on 3: Side by Side* by... Bernstein.

If Radio 3 is suffering from the most virulent strain of the disease, Radio 4 since its relaunch has acquired a mild dose. For example, each night at 11pm there is an hour of comedy, split between two programmes. Presumably for the benefit of people who have not noticed that the sun has gone down, this slot is stranded *Late Night on 4* Why?

The reason cannot be that "late night" is code for "adult"; if that were so, surely the funniest of the *Late Night on 4* shows, which is *The Cheese Shop* Presents, would not have its main broadcast at 6.30pm on Tuesdays with the repeat on Wednesdays at 11.30pm. No, I think BBC radio likes themes because a theme sounds so much more important than a mere programme. It isn't, though.

PETER BARNARD



Big in the Balkans: Philip Kirkorov, Russian rock star, has a fan base of 300 million

THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 11 1998

# Glory and ha for I

NEW MOVIES: Geoff

star putting his heart

C

ANDREW LLOYD

PREVIEWS F

GEOFF BROWN

# Glory, glory and hallelujah for Duvall

**NEW MOVIES:** Geoff Brown witnesses a miracle - a star putting his heart, soul and money into *The Apostle*

Cinema distributors have been fearing the World Cup for months. No one is expected to go to the movies, so nothing colossal is being offered until *Godzilla* on July 17. Not that the industry is packing up shop: this week, nine films open in London. Some have been hanging around for a time, waiting, perhaps, for the moment when they can slip into the world unnoticed.

This is not the case with *The Apostle*. At first sight Robert Duvall's intimate epic appears to follow the usual path of American movies about men of God. Duvall's Pentecostal preacher bangs the Christian drum, then strikes his wife's lover with a baseball bat. Time for a quick exit, he figures; so he flees Texas, baptises himself with a new identity, lands in Bayou Boutte, Louisiana, and starts up business again with a new church, called One Way Road to Heaven.

But this is a preacher with a difference. Duvall's apostle truly believes. And the film, which Duvall wrote, directed and financed with \$5 million of his own money, allows us to feel the character's flaws without ever belittling his convictions. We note the man's self-serving arrogance and tendency to violence. We also feel the heat of his passion as he whips up followers over the local airwaves, galvanises his poor congregation, and converts a redneck who arrives with a bulldozer determined to knock down his church.

Duvall's performance, nominated for an Oscar, is crucial to the film's success. He has played men seeking redemption before, but never with such subtle awareness of the complex impulses that make up a human being. Yes, the film is long. But we give our time gratefully, knowing we are in safe hands. The cast surrounding Duvall does not

- The Apostle**  
Empire, 12, 134 mins  
Robert Duvall triumphs as a preacher
- A Thousand Acres**  
ABC Shaftesbury Ave, 15, 105 mins  
King Lear comes to Iowa. Yawn
- The Grass Harp**  
ABC Piccadilly, PG, 106 mins  
Pleasing version of Truman Capote's novel
- Stiff Upper Lips**  
Warner West End, 15, 90 mins  
Broad parody of Merchant Ivory
- The Girl With Brains in Her Feet**  
ABC Pantion Street, 15, 98 mins  
Cheerful coming-of-age tale set in Leicester
- The Big Swap**  
Plaza, 18, 122 mins  
British thirtysomethings swap partners
- Soul Food**  
Warner West End, 15, 114 mins  
Tasty African-American fare

ing redneck. But everyone blends and everyone belongs. No doubt about it: this film is a triumph.

The same cannot be said for *A Thousand Acres*. The film's roots are sturdy enough. Behind the script lies Jane Smiley's Pulitzer prize-winning novel about an Iowa family's road to ruin; and behind that book lies *King Lear*. But the film, directed by the Australian Jocelyn Moorehouse, seems more intent on aping Hollywood weepies than grappling with soul-wrenching tragedy. The *Lear* equivalent is called Larry Cook (Jason Robards), a billions patriarch who starts the family spiraling to their doom when he decides to parcel out his 1,000 acres among his three daughters. The Cordelia substitute, Jennifer Jason Leigh, raises objections; so her father cuts her out, leaving room for Jessica Lange and Michelle Pfeiffer to bring out family skeletons and tear everyone to pieces.

Moorehouse can be good with jangling nerves - remember her debut film, *Proof* - but both she and her scriptwriter, Laura Jones, seem lost in this vacuous Americana. No other recent Hollywood film has spent so much time pompously floating along, leaving good actors stranded.

With *The Grass Harp*, filmed in 1995, we move south again, to the small-town setting of Truman Capote's novel. Walter Matthau is a retired judge. Roddy McDowall is the local barber. Piper Laurie is an eccentric spinster. City-slicker Jack Lemmon drops by. Younger citizens include Sissy Spacek as Laurie's severe sister, Mary Steenburgen as a travelling evangelist, and Edward Furlong, the young boy sent to live with the two spinsters in the 1940s. Furlong is the weak link

disappoint, either. Some are non-professionals: Rick Dial, most engaging as Elmo, the radio station owner, is a furniture salesman from Arkansas. Others need no introduction: Miranda Richardson, buckling down nicely to a demure Southern accent as Elmo's secretary, Farrah Fawcett as the preacher's wife, all patience exhausted; Billy Bob Thornton, shining brightly in his cameo as the threaten-



"Robert Duvall has played men seeking redemption before, but never with such subtle awareness of the complex impulses that make up a human being"

here: a passive hero, moping around with stooped shoulders, surrounded by characters far livelier. Especially Laurie's Dolly Talbo: she gives the film its gentle heart as she summons the courage to stand up for herself, and sits in a tree house spreading whimsical wisdom. The direction by Charles Matthau, Walter's son, is on the plain side; but this modest, sensitive film still offers greater pleasures than watching men in shorts kicking a ball around.

British cinema is not neglected in the week's bumper bundle. Gary Sinyor's *Stiff Upper Lips*, an infuriatingly broad parody of the Merchant Ivory school, was made two years ago, and might have emerged sooner had not Bank's operations bit the dust. But it is hard to roll out the welcome mat for a film that grows more juvenile by the minute. Georgina Cates is unappealing as the virginal Edwardian heroine who finally discovers sex; Peter Ustinov soars over the top as a lecherous tea-planter in India.

If you want to buy British, *The Girl With Brains in Her Feet* is a far better bet. The basic material may not break new ground - we are back to a teenage girl coming of age in a bygone age, the early 1970s - but this first film by director Roberto Bangura has a low-budget bounce and freshness. The setting plays its part in this: when did you last see the working-class outskirts of Leicester filling the screen?

Jo Hodges, the scriptwriter, hails from Leicester herself, and you sense her childhood fueling the experiences of Jack, an ebullient 13-year-old girl of mixed race with dreams of becoming a world-class athlete. Each day brings new comic tribulations: a brush with her neglectful mother, a grope behind the chip shop, the demon weed, the demon tampon. Joanna Ward, 16 at the time of shooting, fizzes with natural energy as Jack; such a welcome change from the surly demeanour of most British movie youths.

A welcome change, too, from the wailing adults in *The*

*Big Swap*. Niall Johnson's feature throws together five middle-class, heterosexual couples in their thirties for an experiment in partner swapping. At first it seems a merry lark; but then, as they swap again, and again, their group friendship disintegrates. British films that seriously confront sex and its reverberations are not thick on the ground, but the novelty wears thin as the camera weaves a monotonous path through rooms doused in artistic shadows. Maybe we should just leave this topic to the French.

*Soul Food*, written and directed by George Tillman Jr, is a film from the heart. Vanessa L. Williams, Nia Long and Vivica A. Fox play three African-American sisters whose complicated lives grow more tangled still when their Big Mama succumbs to diabetes. This is the kind of fare Hollywood used to serve to white audiences, but you'd be surprised at the wonders genuine warmth, a caring director and a vibrant soundtrack can work on a pile of old chestnuts.

## 'Nothing fun or funky'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...



**THE APOSTLE**  
Emma Rolph, 19: Even in her tiny role, Miranda Richardson was intoxicating. Acting doesn't get any better than this.

**THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET**  
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: Robert Duvall acts better than he writes. I was left with many unanswered questions.

**SOUL FOOD**  
Carl Clark, 19: More interesting than entertaining. Nothing fun or funky about it.

**A THOUSAND ACRES**  
Allison Juliard, 20: Duvall has given us a curious little film. I don't think it really worked.

**A THOUSAND ACRES**  
Emma: A bit of an epic but very watchable. Only suitable for the most sentimental boy.

Leslie: The script has its problems, but it kept my interest.

Carl: Michelle Pfeiffer and Jessica Lange are excellent in this loosely adapted version of *King Lear*.

Allison: An above-average movie for the girls. I needed the Kleenex.

Emma: Vanessa Williams was extremely good - she lit up the screen.

Leslie: The script is passable, but it's the young black cast that brings life to this movie.

Carl: A really pleasant comedy. The performances were faultless.

Allison: You'll laugh, not loads, but you will laugh.

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LIST Troika

ARTS

Comedies and Valleys

THEATRE Grim tidings from Wales Comedy on the menu



Waves of anguish: Roger Evans and Richard Harrington in Gas Station Angel

can explain disasters as acts of revenge by angry fairies, while her husband can turn on the sea and accuse it of taking out its tantrums on his family. Even cool young Ace sees good and bad angels all around, and not only when he is smoking dope. You can describe this as ingrained feyness, or the remnants of paganism, or an escape from the boredom and brutality of contemporary life, or a refusal of personal responsibility, or a sign of national weakness. For Thomas, it is being Welsh.

hood: writers in their Warsaw club arrange them in friendly groups; they are the seats on a coach exploring Spain, dining-room chairs on a transatlantic liner, beds in humble American rooms and finally the interior of a taxi taking an old man across Brooklyn Bridge. The segueing between scenes is wonderfully done. Individual achievements are at the moment variable, and become more attractive as the century proceeds and the thicker, guttural speaking that hints at Yiddish is followed by encounters in the wider world. The narrator has a farcical fondness for accidental involvement with unpredictable women, and these scenes generate a lot of fun, cleverly portraying hysteria and folly. "Tell me about your fantasies," the man will unwisely say and away she goes.

His writing can get cluttered and the acting of his cast (Richard Lynch, Siwan Morris and Richard Harrington among the exceptions) escalates from the intense to the overwrought. But there is talent behind the fuss, and concern for a mini-country still fighting for its identity, still in spiritual turmoil. Will a Welsh parliament make a big difference? No, not really, not on this evidence.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Tales of a traveller

Demons and Dybbuks Richmond Theatre

and arrow. Drawing on short stories by Isaac Bashevis Singer, the male actors take turns to narrate, replacing each other on the chair at the front of the stage where, whatever happens in the course of a story, a chair always reappears. Along with books (hundreds of them) chairs are the only furniture. Aunts sit on them to gossip throughout the narrator's child-

hood: writers in their Warsaw club arrange them in friendly groups; they are the seats on a coach exploring Spain, dining-room chairs on a transatlantic liner, beds in humble American rooms and finally the interior of a taxi taking an old man across Brooklyn Bridge. The segueing between scenes is wonderfully done. Individual achievements are at the moment variable, and become more attractive as the century proceeds and the thicker, guttural speaking that hints at Yiddish is followed by encounters in the wider world. The narrator has a farcical fondness for accidental involvement with unpredictable women, and these scenes generate a lot of fun, cleverly portraying hysteria and folly. "Tell me about your fantasies," the man will unwisely say and away she goes.

JEREMY KINGSTON EDWARD KARAM

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Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page. It features the text 'THE TIMES THURSDAY', 'GALLERIES', 'The BM goes Japan', 'VISUAL ARTS: The J...', 'New', and 'No hiding p...'. It also includes a small illustration of a person's face.



GALLERIES The BM goes Japanese

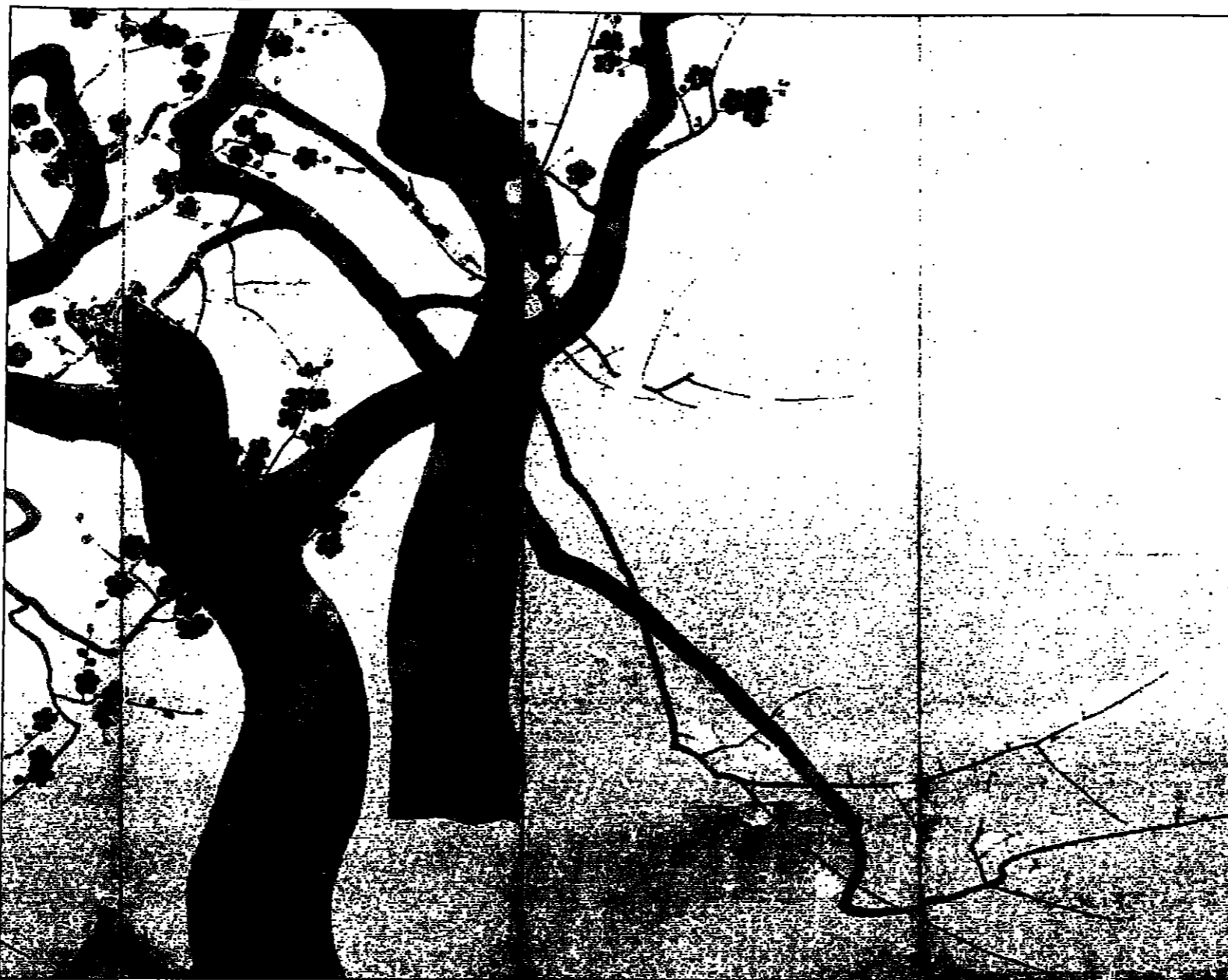
ARTS

TOMORROW Aldeburgh reviewed

VISUAL ARTS: The Japanese Rimpa style is now being recognised in Europe, says Isabel Carlisle

New light from the East

Recent exhibitions of Japanese art in London have concentrated on the great printmakers...



Screen shot: Blossoming Red and White Plum Trees, 1712 to 1713, a pair of six-fold screens attributed to Ogata Korin...

A style rather than a school. Rimpa artists put robust but emotionally charged depictions of the natural world to work in decorative schemes...

Part painting, part sculpture, standing screens are an art form in which Japan both excelled and was most radically different from Western art.

design of clumps of blue irises against a gold background was first used by Ogata Korin, arguably the greatest Rimpa artist...

Visually and technically, Rimpa artists slid from one medium to another, blurring the boundaries between painting, ceramics, lacquerware, calligraphy and textiles.

to create a radically arbitrary pattern. Korin was the son of a leading surveyor of textiles in Kyoto and used the style of textile designs in his paintings.

Periodically revived, Rimpa art was produced in Edo (modern Tokyo) and Kyoto into the 19th century. Some important paintings were recorded in 19th-century French sales catalogues...

Korin is also in tune with today's aesthetics. This beautifully presented exhibition is justification enough for the growing European craze for Japonisme...

Happy returns

MICHAEL BERKELEY is a good listener in his work as a broadcaster, artistic director and composer.

It was a shame that the concert talk on his thoughts behind this 50th birthday programme by the Nash Ensemble was not woven into the concert itself...

In these three pieces from 1980 to 1996 there is a sense of intensifying presence, a strengthening will to impose on his audience.

CONCERTS

Berkeley 50th Birthday Wignora Hall

dy is spun by strings into a fine web until its initial syncopations harden to bass-driven jazz rhythms.

The Savage Messiah (1985) is a bold venture, exploding into life with an outburst from the piano. Although Brown gave a compelling performance...

HELEN WALLACE

Ivory coasting

TWELVE harpsichords (well, three virginals and nine harpsichords) on a small stage greeted the concertgoer at the Purcell Room for the Marathon Harpsichord Extravaganza...

What emerged clearly from this selection was not so much the distinctive national idioms as the potential of the harpsichord for individual expression.

The skills of seven harpsichordists were enlisted to perform all this. In Pasquini's Sonata No 1 in D, for example, they all joined forces to great multiphonic effect.

Harpsichord Marathon Purcell Room

in duets or pieces for two harpsichords.

In the section dedicated to the 16th century, the young Israeli player Sharaona Joshua dominated, making the most of the plangent sound of the Italian virginals and the full-bodied tone of a Grimaldi harpsichord.

Malcolm Greenhaugh, as instrument-provider and tuner for the occasion, deserves a special mention — he must be the speediest tuner in the West.

TESS KNIGHTON

No hiding place as Mozart bares all

For once, rose-clad terrace, pergola and parterre played no part in Garsington's open-air misc-en-scène.

As a late example of classical opera seria, Lucio Silla is what might be called aria-led: song after virtuoso song catapults out one extreme emotion after another.

OPERA Lucio Silla Garsington

overcompensates for what is perceived to be a static sequence of confrontations.

Aidan Lang and his designer Anthony Baker offer no hiding place. With little more than a swirl of imperial purple, a scarlet flame of fire, they concentrate the music's passion in bold body movement.

to the accompanied recitatives and allows the Garsington Opera Orchestra, with the excellent Guildhall Strings, to give buoyant support.

There are times, it is true, when the cast of friends, Romans and countrymen display an inordinate interest in wall and floor.

Mozart certainly tore up the rule book in his writing for Giunia. Tortured and lusted after by Silla, she awaits the

return from exile of Cecilio, her betrothed, and her music is scarcely less agonising than her plight.

HILARY FINCH

In yesterday's review of La pietra del paragone at Garsington, the name of the conductor should have been given as Charles Peebles.

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THE LUSH green light of Monet's The Boat on the cover indicates a disc of music for a sultry summer's night.

This Poème was recorded in the company of Chausson's

youthfully buoyant Piano Trio; and Gary Hoffman also joins Devoyon for a property contemplative reading of the much later Pièce for cello and piano.

ORCHESTRAL Barry Millington

CHOPIN Piano Concerto No 2; Grand Fantasia; Grande Polonaise Brillante

THE PIANOS with which Chopin would have been most familiar were instruments by Erard and Pleyel, of which the former were judged to be most suitable for the present project of Emanuel Ax.

1851, which he has mastered with admirable skill.

The brilliant upper register is clearly differentiated from the mellow, full-toned bass, allowing the pianist to realise the bel canto singing line with unprecedented clarity and subtlety.

OPERA John Higgins

TIANA LEMNITZ Opera Arias

THE GERMAN soprano Tiana Lemnitz died only four years ago, aged 97. She was the epitome of the gracious Teutonic style of singing.

ing over the orchestra. She specialised in unsullied heroines such as Weber's Agathe and Wagner's Elisabeth (Tannhäuser), both well represented here.

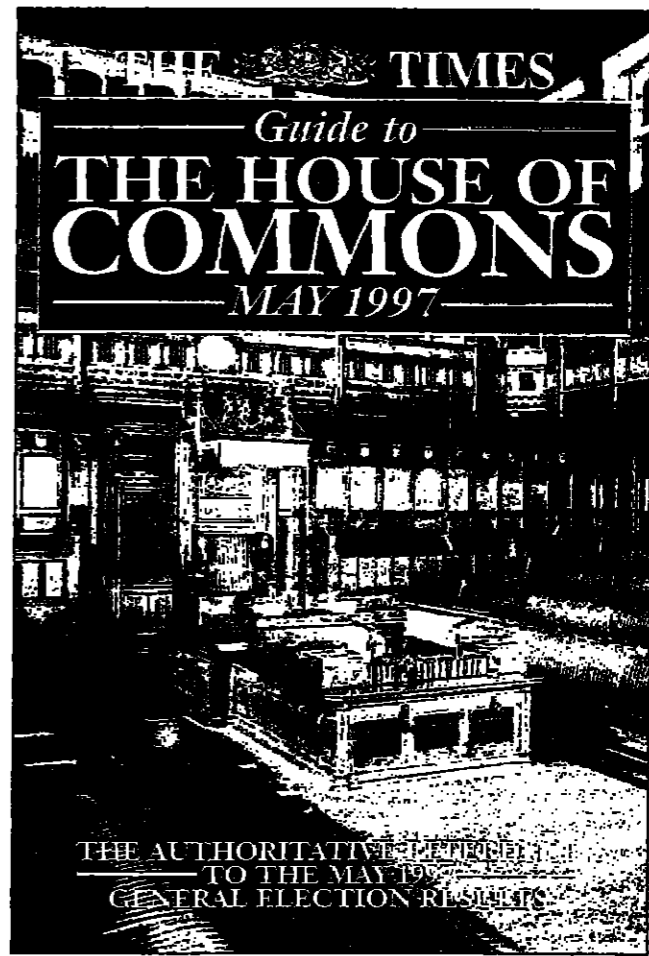
These recordings come from her peak years, which, alas, coincided with the Second World War. Earlier she had been Strauss's first choice for Arabella, but musical machinations prevented that.

Elisabeth's Act III aria from Tannhäuser shows Lemnitz at her gleaming best, as do two lengthy extracts from Lohengrin, in one of which she is joined by the underrated Swedish tenor, Torsten Ralf.

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**LIVING WITH CANCER**

John Diamond

# Dirty play in a game of Marbles?

Fine gloss on an old story? Ian Jenkins, a senior curator at the British Museum, on the Elgin Marbles

Ever since Lord Elgin removed them from the ruin of the building, the sculptures of the Parthenon have been the very heart of the British Museum's Classical collections. Tangible relics of the age of Pericles and

**LORD ELGIN AND THE MARBLES**  
(Third Edition)  
By William St Clair  
OUP, £9.99  
ISBN 0 19 288053 5

Duven a more stringent cleaning occurred. Duven's expertise was in pictures, and his approach to the patinas of the Parthenon sculptures was to remove them in the same way that he would remove old varnish from paintings. The removal

of such surfaces was not then normal museum practice and, when discovered, it was the subject of a Trustees Board of Inquiry. As a result statements were made to the press, and answers given to questions in Parliament. More recently, the museum's own research argues strongly that the coatings that still remain on the Parthenon sculptures are residual paint treatments applied in antiquity. This research has had an important influence in urging against the removal of similar patinas by conservators working abroad. The episode has always been in the public domain and has never been out of the news. Apart from extensive coverage in the press of the day, the controversy was immediately revived by Cesare Brandi after the reemergence of the sculpture from wartime storage in 1949. It has since been featured in the published diaries of the Earl of Crawford, and Roger Hinks, who lost his curatorial post as a result of his part in the episode. In addition, there have been frequent mentions of it in other books and articles. St Clair's latest "expose" is being presented as his new discovery. The news is old.



Lord Duven, 1937: cleaning spree

In addition to the charge of a conspiracy of silence, St Clair claims a physical cover-up, with cosmetic artificial colouring and barriers. As far as artificial colouring is concerned, it is not unusual practice to apply a dressing to the surface of marble after cleaning. This acts as a harmonising medium for the colour of the marble and a protection against dirt. Whatever may have been applied in the 1930s will have been removed in the supervised cleaning of the 1960s. As for barriers, the low rails currently in the Parthenon Gallery were installed in the mid-1980s in response to the growing crowds of visitors in the room. Visiting scholars, including William St Clair, have always been given access to the sculptures.

It is a privilege to display the most important ancient sculpture to survive from classical antiquity. The museum is thereby responsible for promoting understanding of all archaeological and historical aspects of the sculpture and of the Parthenon. Mr St Clair has called the museum's custody a "cynical sham". Readers may judge for themselves.

Two new introductory galleries to the Parthenon, at the British Museum, will open to the public on June 26

is also suggested that around 1901, with disregard for any damage that might be caused, the museum moulded the sculptures in plaster casts. It did not. All the many casts supplied by the museum derive from the moulding taken around 1836. It is because of the British Museum's regard for the sculpture that this exercise has not been repeated. Minutes to what is permissible intervention on the surface of ancient marble have not remained static, and the stripping of patina from the marble in the 1930s must be taken together with other similar practices outside the museum, both before and since. Previously, normal museum cleaning was done with soap and water, but at the instigation of Lord

# BOOKS

## IN BONDAGE Colonial stories

The legacy of colonialism uncovered: Linda Colley searches for the imperial truth



Lakota boys before and after "civilisation", from *The West: An Illustrated History*, ed. Geoffrey C. Ward, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99

# Breaking the heart of darkness

It is 1903 in the village of Warmbad, German South West Africa: and the trouble starts over a dead goat. A minor tribal chief loses his temper: a German Sergeant over-reacts and shoots him. The tribe retaliate by killing three Germans. Thus the opening spark of the Bondelswarts rebellion, which sucked more white soldiers into Africa than even the Boer War. By the time they were finished, more than one in every two members of the local Nama and Herero tribes had perished. It was, Mark Cocker suggests, a kind of German rehearsal for the Holocaust.

In so pronouncing on this (for the British anyway) almost forgotten conflict, he aptly sums up both the virtues and the limitations of this book. His is a deeply felt, widely researched and powerful indictment of the heart of darkness in past European imperialism. But Cocker needlessly overstates what is, heaven knows, a strong case, sometimes losing in over-lucid denunciation important shadings and ambiguities. Superficially, of course, there seems no room for fine shading. Cocker constructs his book around four lethal collisions: the Spanish descent on the Inca and the Aztecs, Britain's near-extermination of Tasmanian aborigines, white Americans' final dispossession of the Apaches, and the German war on the Nama and Herero. The statistics he adduces are stark indeed. In the

80 years that followed Hernán Cortés's arrival in Mexico in 1519, some 11 million indigenous Americans lost their lives. There may have been some eight million Indians in North America when the English first arrived in the late 16th century. Three hundred years later, there were barely a tenth of that.

Why did incoming Europeans, initially few in number, have such a devastating impact? Technology was part of the answer, but so was a distinctive way of warfare. The original inhabitants of North and South America routinely practised violence: but theirs was a ritualised, low-level warfare. Europeans, by contrast, abroad as in their own

### RIVERS OF BLOOD, RIVERS OF GOLD

By Mark Cocker  
Jonathan Cape, £20  
ISBN 0 224 03884 2

continent, fought to kill in large numbers, particularly since conquistadors and frontiersmen were in practice often thugs. Life had rarely been good to them back in Europe. Once removed from European constraints, all their anger and violence was released. The biggest killers though were not European males, but what they brought with them: alcohol and disease. Cocker re-tells these familiar, grisly sagas with authority

and emotion, but not without balance. He is always careful, for example, to make clear that indigenous peoples were not noble savages, merely people. Why, then, do I claim that his account sometimes lacks subtlety? Partly because he treats Europeans as though they were themselves an homogeneous tribe. But where he really stacks the decks is in his choice of episodes of European encounters with the non-European. It is far from clear that the Aztecs and Inca can be viewed as tribal peoples on a par with Tasmanian aborigines. In his other examples, Cocker leaps from the early 16th century to the 19th and early 20th centuries when the technological gulf between the

West and the non-West was at its widest. By so doing, he ostentatiously ignores those intervening centuries when the relations between incoming Europeans and indigenous peoples was often far more complex than is described here. He ignores the work of historians like Richard White who have shown how, for example, certain Native American groupings compelled whites into awkward collusion for much of the 17th and 18th centuries. Tribal peoples' resistance in some regions, lasted a long time. How paradoxical, then, that Cocker — who rightly wants to do justice to them — selects a chronology in which they can appear only as victims.

# Laughter in the face of fear

No reader of this newspaper needs any introduction to John Diamond: few can have missed the column in which he has described his life with cancer in all its shock, rage and horror. Those of us who use to grin at his dry anecdotes about motorbikes and firegliders, were incapacitated with pity and terror as the saga unfolded and this witty writer and broadcaster, who lived it properly (he describes what he does as "honking") because of his tongue. His many admirers will buy this book because the "old" wry John Diamond speaks in every phrase. Anyone unfamiliar with the story should buy it because they will be gripped as if by a thriller, by a narrative which also teaches much about medicine and mortality.



Diamond: wry humourist and self-confessed coward

Bel Mooney

**C — BECAUSE COWARDS GET CANCER TOO**  
By John Diamond  
Vernillon £8.99  
ISBN 0 09 181664 5

**NO TIME TO DIE**  
By Liz Tilberis  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson £18.99  
ISBN 0 297 84236 6

Recently, Diamond identifies himself in the subtitle as a "tabloid suggestion" that merely have cancer attested to my brave readers and bravery. When he asked him for comment on the open with the details of his illness and treatment, "my eyes would go wide and I'd tell them it hadn't occurred to me that I had any alternative... I wasn't doing this for the greater good of this or the patients everywhere... I was doing it as a form of very public denial therapy." It is, of course, what he writes do — write because it is our king, and everything is

has written — analysing with anger and acceptance, describing with wit and dread combined. And along the way he turns the eating of a pear into poetry. What more can I say? Liz Tilberis, the Editor-in-Chief of *Harper's Bazaar*, had advanced ovarian cancer diagnosed in 1993, and since then has reentered along the razor's edge too — kept up by the denial, rage and bloody-mindedness that Diamond displays. "Cloaked in hubris, I couldn't accept that cancer had anything to do with me." She postpones surgery to host a party for the glitterati of her world, sheathing her sick body in plum velvet. In hospital during horrific bone marrow treatment, she sits up to choose a cover with her art director. Diamond would say

grist to the mill. To transform your own pain into good copy, which incidentally does good to other people too. John Diamond needed a book to help him know more about cancer, and this is the book he

this is not bravery but sheer bravado, and you certainly admire her for it — even if this account occasionally reads too much like a slavish *Who's Who* of the rag trade.

Tilberis is too intelligent for the irony to escape her. Her world, exalting the ephemeral and the petty rivalries of magazines, is reminiscent of a renaissance court. Yet the real woman stares into the abyss, haunted by the grandchildren she will never see. Reading this account I was reminded of the *memento mori* on 17th-century tombs: lovely, be-ruffed painted lady above, crumbling skeleton below... and always the warning that we are dust.

Both these books leave you feeling uplifted, despite the self-deprecation — partly due to the strong sub-text of love. Burly Andrew Tilberis helping his wife into tights; the journalist Nigella Lawson walking at six beside her husband's hospital bed, then rushing across London to get the children up. These are enduring testimonies to marriage and to the perfect love which can drive out fear — or at least bury it in practicality and tenderness. I knew a man who left as soon as his wife's cancer was diagnosed, condemning her to two years consumed by bitter grief as well as the disease. With this in mind, I'm sure both Diamond and Tilberis will take it as nothing more than a humble tribute to their partners when I say that in this respect they are — yes — blessed.

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A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

BRITISH ISLES

A JAGUAR for Father's Day must be at the top of many dads' gift lists. Chilton Park in Kent is making it possible to humour them by offering a test drive in a top model together with lunch on June 21. The package costs £29.50 and special weekend breaks are also available. Details: 01622-859803.

FOR country lovers who hate walking, Countrywide is offering a week's full board at a Forlock, Somerset, guest house plus coach excursions to the most interesting sights for £295 from June 20. Short guided walks are available for those who insist. Details: 0161-446 2226.

SAVINGS of 10 per cent, up to £100, for self-catering holidays in Ireland are on offer from Irish Ferries Holidays but you must book before June 30. Four people could enjoy a week in County Kerry for £371 including a Pembroke-Ross-tare crossing with car. Details: 0990 170000.

CHARTWELL, Kent, Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire and Fountains Abbey, North Yorkshire, will host special National Trust music events this summer. Arcadian Hotels is offering weekend breaks at historic hotels from £84 to £125. Details: 0800 174125.

CRUISING on the River Waveney with Hosesons could take you to Oulton Broad, Suffolk, to watch speedboat racing on Thursday nights. Pubs, a theme park and beaches are within easy reach. Prices from £113 a week, based on six sharing. Details: 01502-301010.

GOLDENRAIL is offering a package which includes entry to the practice session and Grand Prix at Silverstone on July 11 and 12, plus two nights' B&B in Huntingdon and transfers for £275. Details: 0161-238 5206.

EUROPE

FRENCH resorts out of reach of the new World Cup venues are trying to woo visitors with special deals. Tony Dawe writes. A week in an Alpine chalet hotel, 3,300 ft up in the Haute-Savoie, 35 miles from Geneva, is available during the event from a discounted £326, including half-board and a short Channel crossing from VFB Holidays.

Camping at Mesland in the Loire Valley will cost from £302 for a family of two adults and up to four children with Eurocamp. The holiday includes a week in a tent and a Le Shuttle trip but departures are restricted to between June 18 and 24.

A fortnight in southern Brittany will be available from July 4 or 11 at a £380 saving from Brittany Direct Holidays. Prices for a cottage sleeping six start at £690, including Eurotunnel travel. Details: VFB, 01242-240310; Eurocamp, 01565-626262; Britany, 0181-641 6060.

RHODES is a football-free island and, if you are desperate to escape, a week's self-catering with a flight from Manchester on Saturday will

cost only £189 with Kosmar. Details: 0181-368 6833.

WOMEN wishing to miss the early stages of the competition can still join a singles sailing course in Greece with Activity Holidays. A week's holiday from Sunday based on Lefkas costs £504 with return flights, accommodation and tuition. Details: 0181-998 2830.

SPECIAL flights to Pisa are available every Saturday from Citalia. Two can fly from Gatwick for the price of one, £149. Details: 0181-686 5533.

TENERIFE's top resort is available at half-price later this month from Sunset Holidays. Fly from Gatwick on Friday June 19 and a week's self-catering in apartments at Playa de las Americas will cost £179. Details: 01204 434441.

MIDSUMMER'S night in Dalarna, central Sweden, will be longer and lighter than most with song and dance celebrations. When you have recovered, there is walking, fishing, canoeing and swimming to enjoy. Scantours offers a five-night package from £369 with return BA flights, rail connections and B&B. Details: 0171-839 2927.



Fountains Abbey will host one of the summer's music events

LONG HAUL

ANTIGUA with a beach for every day of the year is available for a fortnight's room-only First Choice holiday for £399, but you must be ready to fly from Gatwick on Sunday. Details from Lunn Poly Holiday Shops.

EILAT for a week for £200 is an unbeatable offer from Longwood Holidays, but it is based on four sharing an apartment. Fly from Gatwick or Manchester on June 22.

NILE cruises are back on the agenda after last year's tourist massacre. Regal Holidays is offering a week with excursions in Luxor and Aswan and full board from £419. Flights leave Heathrow on June 22 and 29. Details: 01353-778096.

INDONESIA is now safe to visit after the political upheavals, according to the Foreign Office, and operators to Bali are making up for lost business with special offers. Airways has ten nights in a five-star hotel for £525 with flights from Gatwick next Monday and Wednesday and Tropical Places is offering a fortnight

all-inclusive for £749 for the next month. Details: Airways, 0181-875 1188; Tropical Places, 01342-825123.

CUBA for a fortnight from £419 is available from Advantage Travel Centres, with return flights from Gatwick on June 23, and B&B at Le Kolly Hotel, Havana. Details: 0870-909 0070.

FLORIDA holiday, either following your own fancy for staying in a luxury apartment with maid service, or both available at bargain prices from Jetsave. The fortnight's fly-drive holiday costs £199 this month and a fortnight in the Orlando apartment costs from £546, both with return flights. Details: 01342-12033

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

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See The Times Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

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Dawson returns as England try to resurrect tour

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN ROTORUA

MATT DAWSON, the captain forced by injury to squirm in his radio commentary seat as England were savaged by Australia in Brisbane last week, will make his first appearance of the tour in Hamilton Saturday against New Zealand A. Alongside him will be a full hand of Sale players - all five of the touring party were named yesterday including, at full back, Tony Beir.

Beir, 21, is better known for his dashing exploits on the wing, but Clive Woodward, the England coach, believes that his footballing skills equip him for the full back position and that, in any case, the England midfield needs to be bolstered. Nick Beal was due to wear the No 15 jersey, but he will play instead at centre.

Woodward chose Man Perry at outside centre against Australia last Saturday, but is now inclined to return him to full back where he made such a promising debut last season. This England party is not well blessed in the midfield, but, on Saturday, Beal, 6ft 2in and 13st 8lb, and Josh Bendell, 6ft and 11st 4lb, will try to offer the physical power that Woodward sees as a characteristic of the Super 12 culture.

Rather than move the ball wide in a hopeless cause, Super 12 centres drive into the tackle to set a platform for their forwards to begin again, with the patience that acknowledges the possibility of a series of phases before a score

TEAM

ENGLAND XV: Y Beir (Sale), M Moore (Sale), B Phillips (Northampton), J Beal (Sale), D Chapman (Rugby), J Lewis (Bristol), M Dawson (Northampton, captain), W Green (Rugby), R Fildes (Gloucester), D Sims (Gloucester), B Clarke (Rugby), P Sanderson (Sale), P Ojomoh (Gloucester), Replacement: S Pollar (Leicester), A King (Wasps), G Richmond (Rugby), C Cooper (Richmond), G Chuter (Saracens), D Greenwood (Saracens), L Moody (Leicester)

may loom on the horizon. That means that Pat Sanderson will play an important role; the Sale open-side flanker was prevented by tonsillitis from making his international debut against Australia, but now he has his chance.

If Beir, who played hockey for Wales, and has been a professional polo player, has to revise his positional thinking, Matt Moore, his Sale colleague, has the most unenviable task of them all: the wing will oppose a Jonny Lomu desperate to regain his international place.

Ben Clarke, who could revive his own international career in the country where, five years ago, he stood out with the British Isles, said: "It's up to us to get the tour going. It will be a hard three weeks here, there isn't an easy game, but this is the start."

Every player has found his own way of coming to terms with the 76-0 defeat against Australia, a result that has led the New Zealand TAB - the national betting organisation - to offer odds of 3-1 on

that England will lose every game here. Steve Ravenscroft, who won his first cap on the centre last Saturday, said: "The biggest challenge now is to raise yourself. We all need to redress the situation. You are faced with two choices: either you shy away or you acknowledge that we have been given a rugby lesson."

"No one here wants to do the first, so we have to take the lesson on board. The team ethos helps and that has translated to the training pitch."

Ravenscroft, 27, comes comparatively late to international rugby, his career enhanced by playing between Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella at Saracens. He is also that growing rarity, a professional player who still retains another career. In his case as a solicitor specialising in employment law with Lovell White Durrant in the City.

"I learnt a lot about the pace of the game, how things are executed, how different it is from club rugby," Ravenscroft, who needed 12 stitches in a facial wound after a clash of heads with Richard Poo-Jones, his team-mate, said. "When people talk about putting Saturday behind us, we can't pretend it didn't happen - it's there in black and white - but we have to use it positively in the next few weeks."

"We are all looking to come out of this tour with some credibility, in Clive's eyes and from our peers in England. I know people at home were watching the game, from the club, family and friends, and they will be watching what we do here. We don't want to let them down, just as we don't want to let down each other."

Dawson, who will also be first-choice goalkeeper, admitted that the tension was mounting during the long interval between games: "This sort of thing has never happened to any previous England side and we will be going out with the sole intention of winning the game," he said. Style, if you like, must take a back seat to bare necessity.



All smiles: Greening, left, Dawson and Beir in training

Scots ring changes and pledge positive play against Australia

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

TWO players born in New Zealand will make their debuts for Scotland against Australia in Sydney on Saturday. Glenn Metcalfe, a full back, and Gordon Simpson, who plays flanker, are among four changes to the team humiliated by Fiji last month.

The introduction of Metcalfe means that Derrick Lee switches to the wing, while Adam Roxburgh is dropped to the bench to make way for Simpson. "We're obviously not being conservative with our selections," Arthur Hastie, the Scotland manager, said. "We want to play an expansive game and we've picked the players we think can do that."

Three New Zealand-born players are now in the Scotland line-up. Shaun Long-

staff, the wing, made his debut against France this year after completing his three-year residency.

Australia stormed to a record 76-0 defeat of an under-strength England side in Brisbane last Saturday, but Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, is undeterred. "It's obviously going to be a very difficult task, but I don't think you can draw the same comparisons with us and England. I could not see that happening to us."

Justin Bishop, the London Irish right wing, replaces Richard Wallace, of Saracens, for the international on Saturday against South Africa in Bloemfontein. Wallace played in Ireland's 52-13

defeat by Griqualand West in Kimberley on Tuesday, but has suffered a dip in form.

Naas Botha, South Africa's record points-scorer, advised Wales yesterday not to read too much into their over-opening tour victory over Zimbabwe. Wales met the Emerging Springboks tomorrow and Botha said: "The Emerging side have picked some strong young players and they will offer a very good test."

SCOTLAND (v Australia, Sydney Football Stadium, Saturday): G Metcalfe, D Lee, C Murray, R Shepherd, S Long, G Townsend, B Riephohn, D Hiron, G Bulloch, M Proudfoot, S Murray, S Grimes, R Wainwright (captain), G Simpson. Replacements: C Jones, D Hodge, G Burns, A Roxburgh, S Campbell, M Clarke, M McArthur. IRELAND (v South Africa, Bloemfontein, Saturday): C O'Shea, P Wallace, P Johns (captain), M O'Leary, D O'Connell, A Ward, V Costello.

Man who went to Hull and back

Christopher Irvine on Tongan's fight for survival



Vaikona had to overcome a sceptical public and alien culture before making his name in rugby league

Tevita Vaikona's career path had been carefully mapped out. An accountability degree in New Zealand and then back to his native Tonga to work for the government. It did not include a move to England to play rugby league in Hull, a sport about which he knew little in a place he knew even less.

Four years ago, the teenager from a tiny Tongan island - "598 people, 597 when I left" - with barely any English and only the rudiments of a game that had been a diversion from his studies at Christchurch University, landed on the Yorkshire east coast not knowing what to expect.

"I was at my first club function when this guy comes up and says: 'We'd been told a lot about you, but you're not very good.' I vowed then that I'd go down fighting," Vaikona said. "that no matter that I didn't like the food, I'd eat it, that although I didn't understand the language, I'd master it, and that no matter that I didn't like the weather, I'd train even harder when it was cold."

Vaikona, 23, fought and won over the Hull public to the extent that when he left for Bradford Bulls in a £100,000 deal in March, there was uproar at his departure. The centre or wing was the leading ryscroer at the Boulevard for three seasons; 40 tries last year helped to earn Hull promotion to the JJB Super League and Vaikona the first division player-of-the-year award.

Any doubts that he would

not prosper at the elite level were dispelled with two electric tries and another laid on for Shaun Edwards in Bradford's opening league win at Huddersfield. Absenteeism dictates his probable switch to his favourite centre position for the important visit tomorrow of Wigan Warriors, but Vaikona's all-round qualities mean that it was only a matter of time before he was moved off the wing.

It was Vaikona's pace, power and strength that impressed Mark Broadhurst, a former New Zealand prop and a Hull Kingston Rovers favourite of the Eighties.

"Union in New Zealand was a bit too serious," Vaikona said. "Us league players never bothered with training and Mark popped along just to keep fit. When he told me I'd potential and he'd push me along, I never thought much would come of it."

Within two months, Vaikona represented Canterbury Under-19 and was selected for the Junior Kiwis' 1993 tour of Great Britain. "When I returned, I got back to studying. Some Australian clubs wanted me, but when Frank Endacott [the New Zealand coach] said Hull were interested and that it was a wonderful opportunity, I thought if I was going to change my life, I'd better go the whole way by moving to England."

For his father, a fisherman and mother in Tonga, it was hard to fathom. His brothers had been the keen sportsmen; one is an accountant, the other is studying theology in Fiji, with Vaikona's financial assistance. "Me getting a government scholarship to study was the greatest moment for them. Now they see videos of me playing and I send money to help build a house and they understand, I think," he said.

Home is where the heart remains. Vaikona now has an honours degree in business studies and is completing his accountancy degree in preparation for the government work back in Tonga. In the meantime, he is enjoying himself after the struggle to prove his ability in an alien culture. Even his accent has a Yorkshire flavour.

"When I think back to the subsistence living in Tonga, I can't believe how much rugby league has given me," he said. "I'll take back so many experiences and so much knowledge when I do eventually get my feet under a desk."

EQUESTRIANISM: RECORD ENTRY OF 98 FOR BRAMHAM THREE-DAY EVENT

King William seeks crowning glory

By Jenny MacArthur

MARY KING and King William, already the most successful partnership in British eventing, will attempt to break the 2,000-point barrier at the Bramham International three-day event, which begins today. The Yorkshire competition has attracted a field of 98, a record, which includes Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the dual Olympic gold medal-winner, with Stunring, and Bruce Davidson, of the United States, a dual world champion, with Man of Stars.

King William, 15, has collected 1,911 points during his nine-year career, during which he has won Badminton, in 1992, and the British Open championship, four years later. If he succeeds this weekend - adding 100 points to his tally - he will become the first horse in the sport to pass the 2,000 mark. His nearest rival - Karen Dixon's Get Smart - retired last year after accumulating 1,600 points.

King William, a veteran of two Olympic Games, has had five outings this year and finished in the top two on each occasion. "He feels fantastic," King said. "Just the same as he did five years ago."

The British entry includes three leading contenders for the world championships in

October in Chris Bartle, the winner of Badminton this year, on Anne Henson's Oscar, Kristina Gifford, who will be riding State Diplomat and O'Leary, and Ian Stark, with Lady Hartington's Jaybee. Bartle could pose the biggest threat to King for Oscar, an 11-year-old gelding, is now

proving to be a reliable cross-country performer after some early problems. The cross-country course to be tackled on Saturday has been designed by Mark Phillips for the second successive year. He admits to "some mistakes" last year, when he was still learning about the

effects of the ground at Bramham. As a result, he has made some key changes, including a demanding new complex called The GNER Railway (fences No 12, No 13 and No 14) and the new Aintree Fence (No 19), which has been positioned to take advantage of better ground.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent. This hand from the first round of the 1998 Gold Cup is a curiosity. In the same contract after identical bidding one declarer made six tricks more than the other.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent. Grandmaster bonanza. From a slow start several years ago the Four Nations Chess League, the team competition for clubs from the UK, has grown to become an event thickly populated both by home grown and foreign grandmasters.

WORD-WATCHING. By Philip Howard. SEABRIGHT a. A boat b. Seaweed c. A fish. VINAYA a. A vineyard b. Buddhist rule c. A nanny. SIEVA a. A god b. A roof tile c. A kidney bean.

WINNING MOVE. By Raymond Keene. Black to play. This position is from the game Matoshin-Kuzmin, Soviet Union, 1970. How did Black close the net around the white king with a clever combination?

Answers on page 52

Solution on page 52

# THE WORLD CUP TODAY

## GROUP B

### ITALY v CHILE

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE

This match, one of the most exciting prospects of the whole first round, revives memories of an earlier meeting, one of the most violent in the history of the tournament. When they met in Santiago in 1962, the Italy players complained from the beginning that the Chileans were spitting in their faces and insulting them. Nor were they slow to retaliate. Yet when Leonel Sánchez, the Chile outside left, broke the nose of Humberto Maschio, the Italy inside right, with a left hook, it was behind the referee's back and neither of his linesmen enlightened him. Sánchez stayed on the field, two Italians were eventually sent off for serious fouls and Chile won — going on to take third place after losing to Brazil in a torrid semi-final.

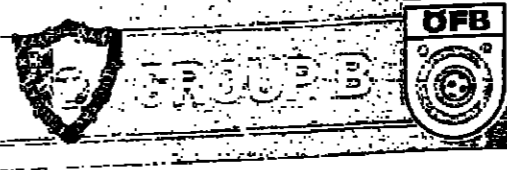
Ironically, Chile's chief threat in Bordeaux today comes from two strikers with strong Italian connections. Ivan Zamorano, the tall centre forward, powerful in the air, adroit on the ground, had a marvellous game recently in Paris when Internazionale beat Lazio in the final of the Uefa Cup, scoring the first goal with a well-judged burst, hitting a post and making a goal for Zanetti.

Those who saw Marcelo Salas take the England defence apart recently at Wembley, when he scored two goals with some ease, will hardly need reminding of his prowess. A prolific scorer for both club, River Plate, of Buenos Aires, and country, he is about to join Lazio.

There are those who believe that Sierra and his fellow midfield players are far more eager to attack than to defend and that, as a group, they lack pace. Nelson Acosta, the Chile manager, admits that Italy are quicker than his charges and that this could create difficulties. He hopes that Salas will play up to his club form for Chile — something that has not always happened in the past.

ITALY (probable): 6-3-2; G Paolucci — A di Livio, A Costacurta, F Cannavaro, A Nesta, P Maldini — D Baggio, R di Matteo, D Alabertti — R Baggio, C Vieri.  
CHILE (probable): 4-3-2; N Tapia — R Fuentes — M Villarreal, J Vargas, P Reyes, F Rojas — C Acuña, N Parraquini, F Estay — I Zamorano, M Salas.  
Referee: L Quaresima Bouchardou (Nigeria)  
COVERAGE: Television: ITV (from 4.15pm), Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 4pm), Talk Radio (from 4.30pm). Kick-off: 4.30pm.

Sunday July 12	Final	8pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	FINAL
Saturday July 11	Third-place play-off	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, RSL/Talk	THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
July 9 & 10 REST DAYS					
Wednesday July 8	Winner 9 v Winner 12	8pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	SEMI-FINALS
Tuesday July 7	Winner 10 v Winner 11	8pm	Marseilles	tba, RSL/Talk	SEMI-FINALS
July 5 & 6 REST DAYS					
Saturday July 4	11. Winner 6 v Winner 8	3.30pm	Marseilles	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	12. Winner 5 v Winner 7	8pm	Lyon	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
Friday July 3	9. Winner 1 v Winner 3	3.30pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
	10. Winner 2 v Winner 4	8pm	Nantes	tba, RSL/Talk	QUARTER-FINALS
July 1 & 2 REST DAYS					
Tuesday June 30	7. Winner G v Runner-up H	3.30pm	Bordeaux	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	8. Winner H v Runner-up G	8pm	St Etienne	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Monday June 29	5. Winner F v Runner-up E	3.30pm	Montpellier	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	6. Winner E v Runner-up F	8pm	Toulouse	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Sunday June 28	3. Winner C v Runner-up D	3.30pm	Lens	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	4. Winner D v Runner-up C	8pm	Stade de France	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Saturday June 27	1. Winner B v Runner-up A	3.30pm	Marseilles	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	2. Winner A v Runner-up B	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, RSL/Talk	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
Friday June 26	Group H Japan v Jamaica	3pm	Lyon	ITV	SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
	Group H Argentina v Croatia	3pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL/Talk	
	Group G Romania v Tunisia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC	
	Group G Colombia v England	8pm	Lens	BBC, RSL/Talk	
Thursday June 25	Group E Belgium v South Korea	3pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group E Holland v Mexico	3pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group F Germany v Iran	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, RSL	
	Group F United States v Yugoslavia	8pm	Nantes	ITV	
Wednesday June 24	Group C France v Denmark	3pm	Lyon	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group C South Africa v Saudi Arabia	3pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL	
	Group D Spain v Bulgaria	8pm	Lens	ITV, RSL	
	Group D Nigeria v Paraguay	8pm	Toulouse	ITV	
Tuesday June 23	Group B Italy v Austria	3pm	Stade de France	ITV, RSL/Talk	
	Group B Chile v Cameroon	3pm	Nantes	ITV, RSL	
	Group A Scotland v Morocco	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group A Brazil v Norway	8pm	Marseilles	BBC	
Monday June 22	Group G Colombia v Tunisia	4.30pm	Montpellier	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group G Romania v England	8pm	Toulouse	ITV, RSL/Talk	
Sunday June 21	Group F Germany v Yugoslavia	1.30pm	Lens	BBC, RSL	
	Group H Argentina v Jamaica	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV, RSL/Talk	
	Group F United States v Iran	8pm	Lyon	BBC, RSL	
Saturday June 20	Group H Japan v Croatia	1.30pm	Nantes	ITV, RSL	
	Group E Belgium v Mexico	4.30pm	Bordeaux	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group E Holland v South Korea	8pm	Marseilles	ITV, RSL	
Friday June 19	Group D Nigeria v Bulgaria	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV	
	Group D Spain v Paraguay	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL/Talk	
Thursday June 18	Group C South Africa v Denmark	4.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, Talk	
	Group C France v Saudi Arabia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, RSL	
Wednesday June 17	Group B Chile v Austria	4.30pm	St Etienne	BBC, Talk	
	Group B Italy v Cameroon	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, RSL	
Tuesday June 16	Group A Scotland v Norway	4.30pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL/Talk	
	Group A Brazil v Morocco	8pm	Nantes	ITV, RSL	
Monday June 15	Group G England v Tunisia	1.30pm	Marseilles	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group G Romania v Colombia	4.30pm	Lyon	ITV, RSL/Talk	
	Group F Germany v United States	8pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, RSL	
Sunday June 14	Group H Argentina v Japan	1.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, RSL	
	Group F Yugoslavia v Iran	4.30pm	St Etienne	BBC, RSL	
	Group H Jamaica v Croatia	8pm	Lens	ITV, RSL	
Saturday June 13	Group D Spain v Nigeria	1.30pm	Nantes	BBC, RSL/Talk	
	Group E South Korea v Mexico	4.30pm	Lyon	ITV	
	Group E Holland v Belgium	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, RSL	
Friday June 12	Group D Paraguay v Bulgaria	1.30pm	Montpellier	ITV	
	Group C Saudi Arabia v Denmark	4.30pm	Lens	BBC, Talk	
	Group C France v South Africa	8pm	Marseilles	ITV, RSL	
Thursday June 11	Group B Italy v Chile	4.30pm	Bordeaux	ITV, RSL/Talk	
	Group B Cameroon v Austria	8pm	Toulouse	BBC, RSL	
Wednesday June 10	Group A Brazil 2 (César Sampaio 4; Boyd 73, og) Scotland 1 (Collins 38, pen) 80,000				
	Group A Morocco v Norway	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, RSL	



### CAMEROON v AUSTRIA

FROM MATT DICKINSON

Who will forget the Indomitable Lions of 1990? Certainly not Claudio Caniggia, the Argentine striker, who found out just how indomitable the Cameroon defence can be in the opening game of that World Cup. Tripped by the first green-shirted assailant, kicked by the second, Caniggia was hurried into orbit by the violent lunge from the third as he attempted to breach the back line. It was one of the simpler red card decisions.

Cameroon have yet to rediscover the wonderful form of eight years ago, when they beat Caniggia, Maradona *et al* so memorably and then stretched English nerves to breaking point in the quarter-finals. Francois Omam Biyick, whose athletic headed goal secured victory in the opening game, remains, however, and progress to the second round could be possible from the tournament's weakest group.

A broken leg has deprived Cameroon of Marc Vivien Foe, the central defender coveted by Manchester United, and their preparations have been predictably chaotic with Claude Le Roy, the French coach, taking charge only in February after a run of poor results. A recent 2-1 victory over Denmark in Copenhagen and a goalless draw in Holland indicate, though, that Cameroon may be hard to break down.

The Africans should be able to overcome an Austria side seemingly devoid of personalities. Has there ever been a European side in the World Cup finals of whom so little is known, or cared? Herbert Prohaska's team is based on a sound defence, with Feiersinger, of Borussia Dortmund, the outstanding performer at the back, but a 3-0 defeat at home to the United States in a warm-up match has raised serious doubts about their credentials.

CAMEROON (probable): 3-5-2; J Song'o — R Song, R Kalla, P N'Gala — P Wome, S Ombia, P M'Boame, A Sime, J Ndo — S Iona, F Omam Biyick.  
AUSTRIA (probable): 1-3-2-1; M Korabel — W Feiersinger — P Schickel, A Pfeiler — H Gany, D Kuhnauer, R Malsica, H Pfeilhammer, A Weit — A Horozog, A Poplar.  
Referee: E Gonzalez Chavez (Paraguay)  
COVERAGE: Television: BBC1 (from 7.30pm), Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 7.30pm). Kick-off: 8pm.

### EN PASSANT

**Power sharing:** Police are to stand guard at power stations across Bangladesh during the tournament in case angry fans miss matches because of the rationing of electricity. The Bangladeshi Prime Minister has ordered officials to ensure that there is increased power production for the duration of the tournament.

**Tea time:** Two directors of an Islamic meat company based in Marseilles made a special delivery to the Morocco squad's headquarters in the South of France before their group A match last night against Norway. The businessmen brought boxes full of the ingredients needed to make green tea, the country's national drink.

### THE GROUPS

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 11 1998

# Maldin to find of adv

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## Kanu's po

Initi



# Maldini needs to find sense of adventure

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE IN BORDEAUX

ENZO BEARZOT, who managed three Italy World Cup teams and won the tournament in 1982, used to call it a process of "disintoxication". What he meant was that his Italy players, after the thousand heartaches and natural shocks of their championship, essentially needed a period of calm before they could function properly as a team.

The question is this: can Cesare Maldini, the 66-year-old Italy coach, who was once Bearzot's assistant, be as successful as his mentor? Chile could prove to be a dauntingly difficult opponent in their opening match in group B at Parc Lescure here today.

The Italy defence that must face the dangerous double spearhead of Marcelo Salas and Ivan Zamorano has not been the same since Franco Baresi retired, while the loss through severe injury of Ciro Ferrara has robbed them of their strongest central defender.

In Sweden, where Italy lost 1-0 in their most recent international, it may be significant that while they started with a back three, the preferred tactic of Maldini, using Costacurta as sweeper, they subsequently pulled Maldini's son, Paolo, into a more defensive position on the left flank and deployed a zonal back four.

An English spy at the game noted that the Italy defence was still curiously vulnerable to crosses curled in from the left and this could prove dangerous against a striker so accomplished with his head as Zamorano.

The spy was also very critical of Italy's lack of a real creative force in midfield, something that Cesare Maldini himself has been heard to complain about. There is no obvious successor to the likes of Gianni Rivera or Giancarlo Antognoni.

Moreover, Alessandro del Piero, of Juventus, will miss the game because of an injury. His place will be taken by the rejuvenated Roberto Baggio, who, with a dazzling late burst

of form with Bologna, has reclaimed the place he lost after USA 94.

He will be partnered up front by the powerful Christian Vieri. With Pierluigi Casiraghi, newly of Chelsea, having been left out of the squad, Vieri is essentially the only big man left. Fabrizio Ravanelli has had to withdraw from the squad with bronchial pneumonia and his replacement is the smaller, quicker Enrico Chiesa, of Parma.

It may be that, for this game at least, Maldini will revert to his favourite tactics, using Costacurta behind two markers, Cannavaro and Nesta, while deploying either Di



Ravanelli: withdrawn from squad through illness

Livio or Moriero as a kind of maid-of-all-work up and down the right flank. Di Livio has the experience, though Moriero, who has been a revelation for Italy and scored spectacular goals for his country, would be a more adventurous choice.

Much in midfield will depend on Di Matteo, of Chelsea. Albertini, who had such a disappointing time last season with AC Milan, hits a free kick powerfully, but has never really followed in the footsteps of Rivera.

Even Nelson Acosta, the Chile coach, admits that where Italy could have the edge is in their greater pace in

midfield and defence, though in José Luis Sierra, Chile have a midfielder player who can make exquisite use of the ball.

Javier Margas, the experienced Chile centre back, said: "I'm not coming to the World Cup looking for a new team, but to represent Chile worthily. I am obviously impressed at the idea of finding myself facing some of the best attackers in the world, but this is very motivating for me as a player, as a South American and as a Chilean; playing against footballers much better known than us, knowing that the whole world has its eyes riveted on us."

"In any case, Chile has little to lose and much to gain, in contrast with the Italian team. They are better placed than us in the hierarchy of football, so it is they who will suffer the pressure and will have to do everything they can to seek a good result. That would complicate things considerably for them if we ourselves play a good game."

No doubt the centre of Bordeaux will be swarming with impassioned Italy fans today, but, at the moment, it is fairly quiet. No flags and no banners — a mood more or less reflected by the Italian press corps.

Broadly speaking, they are not excited by Maldini's stewardship, feeling that, however he might have done running the Italy Under-21 side, he is far too cautious in charge of the senior team.

Pedro Reyes, the other Chile central defender, is optimistic. "Obviously, I respect the Italians, Robert Baggio and Christian Vieri, but I respect them as I respect any other opponent," he said. "From a tactical point of view, to beat Italy, we must be well-organised and not restrict ourselves to playing in defence. On the contrary, we must go forward to create chances and exploit them."

In fact, just what the Italian journalists accuse Maldini and his Italy team of not doing.

# Stern Simoes sticks to jobs for the Boyz

Matt Dickinson says the party can wait for a Jamaica team in sober mood



The coach's demand for fitness should benefit Earle, the Wimbledon midfielder

Advance publicity would have you believe that the World Cup consists of 31 football teams and a convoy of partying Jamaicans strolling around France losing games and making friends. The Reggae Boyz are billed as the tournament's little joke, the team that everybody loves because they're hopeless.

Patronising twaddle, according to René Simoes, Jamaica's Brazilian coach. Whipping boys they might be, but no team has prepared for this tournament with the zeal of the Jamaicans, who even sought match-practice recently in Iran. Moreover, those who doubt the weight of expectation on the World Cup's no-hopers might care to learn that it has not been good-luck messages that Simoes has been receiving from downtown Kingston but death threats. Proper, scary death threats.

The cause of such unlikely passions was a selection debate that made the Gascoigne affair seem like a passing tiff. Enter — most likely on his favourite motorbike — Walter Boyd, the rebel-rousing bad boy of Jamaican football, but the object of island adulation.

A striker rejected by West Bromwich Albion last year, Boyd has, by Jamaican standards, long been regarded as Gascoigne and Shearer rolled into one. His behaviour had been that of the former, with training sessions missed, instructions ignored and Simoes's authority flouted, when he was caught riding a motorbike. It was the final straw for Simoes, who is proud of his imposition of strict discipline on a team that used to regard training as an optional extra and kick-off times as a subject for negotiation. Fed up with his prima donna antics, Simoes sent Boyd into exile for more than a year.

Simoes denies adamantly that Boyd's return to the fold two weeks ago owed anything to an orchestrated campaign that began with demonstrations and climaxed with threats to his life, which were taken seriously enough for him to be offered a bullet-proof vest — which he declined — and a bodyguard, which he accepted.

A devout Christian who signs all autographs "Jesus Loves You", Simoes prefers to dwell on the public apology from Boyd and his willingness to grasp the olive branch. There was also a

team ballot that came out in the player's favour, so Boyd, 26 and the winner of 58 international caps, is now in France desperately trying to recover match-fitness.

Although the threats have disappeared, the security remains tight at the Jamaican camp, where Simoes is adamant that nothing should deflect his team's preparations for group H. Visitors are banned, telephone calls are screened and the press can do nothing but peer through the regularly patrolled security fence. The

reggae music blaring out in the village square, an attempt to make the Jamaica team feel at home, is falling on deaf ears, with the players banned from leaving their base. So much for the all-day party.

'Before he took over the team saw training as an optional extra'

ling than any other team," Simoes said, "but we are trying to fit a lifetime of football experience into a few weeks."

"You have to remember that some of my players did not even own a passport when I took over a few years ago. They were working in hotels, in restaurants. They had no concept of teamwork, of how the game was played outside the island. They were used to playing on the beach."

Simoes's insistence on fitness and his dire shortage of experience are likely to benefit the English-based players. Robbie Earle, the Wimbledon midfielder, is expected to play a bigger role after spending most of the qualifying matches on the substitutes' bench, while Frank Sinclair, the Chelsea full back, should make the starting XI. Darryl Powell, of Derby County, may miss out, while his club-mate, Dean Burton, and Marcus Gayle, who plays for Wimbledon alongside Earle, will compete for one striker's position.

One has to fear for Jamaica against a team of Argentina's might, with Sinclair's tussle with Gabriel Batistuta one not to be missed. As Simoes hopes to step down after this tournament and secure a senior coaching position in Brazil, however, he cannot afford to see his team humiliated. Jamaica are taking this World Cup seriously — even, it seems, their colourful supporters. The party can wait.

# Kanu's powers of recovery tested

Inigo Gilmore on the brave return of a player from heart surgery

For someone who underwent heart surgery last year and is a doubtful starter for his country's opening match in group D against Spain in Nantes on Saturday, Nwankwo Kanu, the Nigeria striker, is remarkably confident. The inspiration behind his team's Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in 1996, Kanu is hoping that he can bring glory again in France at a time when doubts about Nigeria's prospects have begun to creep in after they suffered heavy defeats in World Cup warm-up games.

The career of the softly spoken 22-year-old reflects, in many ways, the fluctuating fortunes of his volatile national team. Kanu rose to stardom when he scored twice in the 4-3 semi-final victory against Brazil at the Olympics, including the decisive golden goal in extra time. His contribution prompted a transfer to Internazionale, of Milan, but immediately after leaving Ajax in the summer of 1996, it was discovered that he was suffering from a congenital heart problem. He underwent successful surgery in the United States in the spring of 1997, when a plastic valve was inserted in his heart, and made his international return in Nigeria's last World Cup qualifier against Guinea in Conakry.

Having made a successful comeback from such a serious operation, Kanu epitomises, for some, the fighting spirit of his team, but talk that Nigeria are the best hope yet of fulfilling Pelé's prophecy that an African team will win the World Cup before 2000 started to evaporate in the wake of a string of heavy defeats, most recently a 5-1 drubbing by Holland.

Speaking at the chateau north of Paris where they are based, Kanu said that he believes Nigeria could emerge strengthened by their recent experiences. "In Nigeria they don't understand what is happening," he said. "They find it strange that we have been losing. For me, it's good this has happened now because it has brought us down to earth. In Nigeria, they had been saying we were better than any side here."

The squad did not manage a single practice session before the recent match against Yugoslavia — they lost 3-0 — and Kanu sympathised with Bora Milutinovic, the coach, a Yugoslav who has previously been at World Cups with

Costa Rica, Mexico and the United States. "The players like him," Kanu said. "He is a good trainer. He has a lot of experience. But the time is very short. The players have had to work hard."

Kanu scored his first Serie A goal in March, but has not been a regular for Inter this season. He played for Nigeria against Germany earlier this year and came on as a substitute against Holland. At training on Tuesday, he was



Kanu: inspiration

able only to jog. While he insisted that he has been suffering from a stomach upset, one of the trainers said that Kanu was having problems with an ankle injury.

Milutinovic has said that he is concerned about Kanu's fitness, but the player himself insisted: "I'm fit to play. We want to continue the impetus of Atlanta with a similar formation to the one that won us the gold medal. I just hope we can perform the way we want."

Apart from the loss of form, the sudden death this week of President Sani Abacha, a keen football fan, came as a shock. Though the players were hardly devoted to Abacha, he was said to be close to some of them and they are concerned about the unpredictable political situation at home. "Nobody is very happy," Kanu said, "but we will just try to do our best."

For Kanu, that Olympic triumph remains a source of great inspiration and he said that sees no reason why such feats cannot be repeated in their group, which also includes Paraguay and Bulgaria. "Before a game, we stop and pray," Kanu said. "We believe in prayer. That is the strength of the team." If recent form is anything to go by, it may take more than prayer to see Nigeria through on Saturday.

## WORLD CUP DIARY

### Mystic figures it out

IF ENGLAND can employ a faith healer, then Hincal Uluc, the sage of Turkish football, should offer a little optimism to the World Cup cause. He says that England will win, based on his mathematical theory: Germany were champions in 1974 and 1990, dates added together that make 3,964. Similarly, Brazil's wins in 1970 plus 1994 and Argentina — 1978 and 1986 — also add up to 3,964. Spooky, but true, so Uluc says subtract England's 1966 victory from 3,964 and you get... 1998. Believe this one at your peril.

While you turn on the kettle during your next World Cup game, think of two million Haitians desperate to watch the tournament clustered around their rickety Bakelite sets. Residents

have been told to turn off fridges, air-conditioners and electric water pumps to ensure there is enough power for televisions.

The tentacles of Muslim politics have even permeated the French catering trade. Staff serving the Iran squad must not wear skirts and dresses. "We have to be covered up as much as possible," a disgruntled member of staff said.

Not that Steve Sampson, the United States coach, cares much. Nor does he worry whether pre-match sex drains the strength of his players. "If it enhances their game, I'm all for it," he said.

KEVIN EASON

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# Southgate's penalty comes close to expiry

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT IN PARIS

THE last man to kick a ball in anger for England in a leading competition knew what was coming. It always comes, sooner or later, the question about another chance for redemption, and, this time like the last, Gareth Southgate greeted it with a rather weary and pained smile, as if it was an unwanted relative pitching up for Christmas dinner.

This time, of course, the link was too good to miss. Southgate's doomed penalty kick against Germany ended England's hopes of winning the 1996 European championship and now they are about to embark on another voyage of tournament discovery. In the eyes of many, the World Cup is another golden penitence opportunity in the never-ending day of atonement that has become Southgate's professional life.

He has almost succeeded in putting it behind him now. He has done the pizza adverts, he clenched his fists with uncharacteristically emotional intensity after he had played his part to the full in England securing qualification for these finals in Rome last October, he has played steadily for Aston Villa. The World Cup, the only thing that could be bigger than Euro 96, was always going to be the final hurdle, the last obstacle to starting his football life afresh.



**'I haven't got anything to prove to anybody any more'**

"What happened with my last touch of the ball in Euro 96 is not really relevant in this tournament," Southgate said, "because there won't be any penalties until the knockout stages, so I am more focusing on the other 90 minutes or 120 minutes of the game rather than something which has formed ten seconds of a 15-year career."

"I don't think I have got anything to prove to anybody any more. Maybe I felt that for a while, but you could go on forever. Nothing you can do would make up for that because the players that were involved, people like Pearce [Stuart Pearce], have missed out on that opportunity, so I can't do anything about that. I have played my part in qualifying for this tournament. I played my part in the Tourni last summer, so I don't feel as if I have anything to prove as a professional. Obviously, that incident is always going to rankle with me, but I have to be positive and look forward and hopefully I am going to play a big part in this summer as well."

Whatever torments he may have felt in the aftermath of the loss to Germany, Southgate has pushed them away so firmly in the past 12 months that he has become one of the cornerstones of Glenn Hoddle's defence and is likely to be in the starting line-up for

England's opening group G game against Tunisia in Marseilles on Monday.

In a tournament that may be dominated as much by the brandishing of red and yellow cards as by the beauty of the skills of the participants, Southgate's mobility and pace and the excellent timing of his tackles are likely to make him one of England's prime assets in a campaign in which suspensions are likely to force others on to the sidelines. Happiest as one of a back three, Hoddle's favoured system, he is bound to play a significant role.

Like the rest of the England defenders, Southgate will study the opening games carefully to try to gauge just how severely referees are punishing tackles from behind, even tackles that may win the ball and then inadvertently bring the player down with a trailing leg. Like the rest, he hopes that there will be some scope for the referees to use their own interpretation.

"I am not really somebody who gets into trouble with referees anyway," Southgate said. "I don't think that at this level you get players who go out deliberately not to play the ball."

"It is a question of timing and if you are questioned for bad timing, that is out of our hands really."

"It won't affect my game at all. If the ball is there to be won, you go and win it. If you get too tight to a good striker, they are going to roll you or turn you anyway, so you are better to threaten their first touch and then drop off. There is more encouragement now from the coaches that I work with for defenders to win things in front of the striker, whereas in the past strikers were always able to hold the ball up without too many problems and then the defender would come in."

"You do not see centre halves ploughing into the back of forwards that much any more anyway. We have to be that much more aware of players from other countries looking for fouls. I think we are a bit too honest at times. I think we carry on regardless if we are clipped because we have got an opportunity to do something with the ball. I think other teams play it more like basketball, where they almost draw the foul and then accept the free kick."

Southgate will want to avoid free kicks of every kind this summer, be it giving them away or taking them in a shoot-out. He should have been allowed to try to forget the agony of one moment before now. His catharses have been and gone. Perhaps the World Cup finals will provide those who still remember with theirs, too.

# Caught up in the romance of it all, finally



There are stages of World Cup anticipation and, if anybody wants to study them, I think I went through the lot. Premature over-excitement, for example, gave way to weary disbelief, which in turn dwindled to cynicism and even apathy. "Cheer up, you're going to the World Cup," might seem like an odd conjunction of sentiments, but I'd be lying if I didn't admit to hearing them yoked together more than a few times in the past week. Even arriving in Paris on Tuesday, I still sulked inexplicably, like Mary Jane in the A. A. Milne poem, who wasn't ill and hadn't a pain.

Seeking out the Tartan Army on the Champs-Elysees on Tuesday night, I observed their amusing antics with a wan dispassion, as though I had a secret terminal illness and had never liked football anyway. Basically, this World Cup thing was never going to happen, was it? And the danger was by the time it finally did, I wouldn't care.

And then, at 9.30 yesterday morning, I saw the Stade de France at Saint-Denis for the first time and the euphoric stage finally struck. What a fantastic place for a football match; moreover, to see the Boys from Brazil play Scotland the Brave. The romantic swoon started in the pit of the stomach, plunged to gather momentum around the naughty bits and then soared up to block the windpipe. In the old days, apparently, Paris played second fiddle to Saint-Denis and they called it "Paris near Saint-Denis". Well, I have to say: if the World Cup's premier stadium performs as well as it looks, that old disparaging address for Paris may well be resumed forthwith.

Since journalistic concerns are not intrinsically interesting, I shall not dwell on the superiority of the working conditions here, except to say that anyone accustomed to the offensively spartan arrangements at, say, Stamford Bridge would be forgiven for weeping openly. Outside, in the real world of the stadium, held similar nice surprises. Pleasant women sell you ice creams; proper food (whole hams, for exam-



The Stade de France in Saint-Denis provided a magnificent setting for the opening ceremony and first game of the 1998 finals

ple) is on offer from tents. There is just no trace of that characteristic English foodie smell: caramelised onions, with lager and vinegar, laced with fresh marmite.

Brazil v Scotland was, like the World Cup itself, a contest anticipated for too long. Likewise, it had progressed through different stages, from automatic whitewash (on first hearing), through admirable doomed challenge (for Scotland), to quite honestly anybody's match (by yesterday). Scotland never returned, despite the final score. They were great, very, very dogged (sniff). In the first half, Brazil could not capitalise on the early goal: in fact, there were times, early on, when it was just like watching Barnsley. Jim Leighton, Scotland's excellent geriatric goalkeeper — at nearly 40, the oldest chap in the world, apparently — shielded the

goal valiantly, like a man repeatedly taking a bullet for his king, and the score remained at 1-0 while the predominantly Scottish crowd sat in uneasy silence. I kept thinking "What's wrong with this crowd? Are they French? Why don't they do a Mexican wave to keep warm?" But it wasn't fair. Until the Scotland penalty at the end of the first half thrillingly equalised the score and got both teams motivated for the superior second half, this was not a match whose details were destined to lodge forever in one's mind.

How unlike the opening ceremony, however — an occasion that will certainly live in the memories of those who thought Teletubbies existed only in pastel-shades and single-figure populations. Zillions of Teletubbies in verdant green swarmed over the pitch with acres of matching silk, out of which were

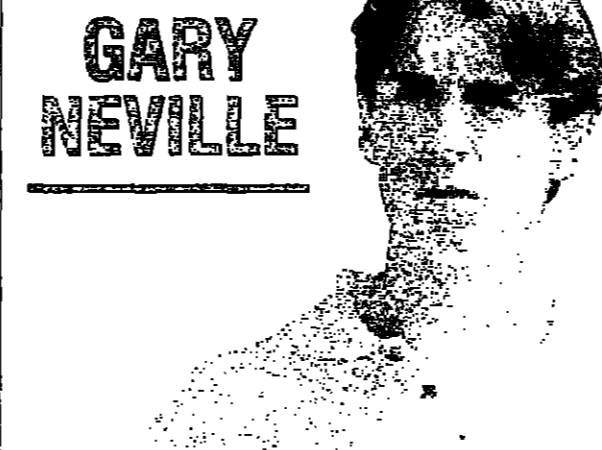
thrust at intervals enormous engorged flower-petals of such potent sexual symbolism that Sigmund Freud himself would have needed a lie-down after seeing them.

One doesn't usually think of Teletubbies and the word "engorged" in the same instant, but that's the French for you. And you've got to see it from their point of view. If four-fifths of the world's population are tuning in, you might as well do something that will give their kiddies nightmares. Actually, having seen the green Teletubbies lining the pitch before the ceremony, I'd assumed they were Stade de France security people forced to blend with the background, in the form of human *petis pois*. When they began to bounce around in choreographed fashion with orange balloons and such, it was actually quite a relief.

## 'Pleasant women sell you ice creams, proper food is on offer'

LYNNE TRUSS

# Pitting my wits against class acts sure to bring out the best in me



GARY NEVILLE

that really brought it home to me how important it was to so many people. I remember looking at all the faces, full of hope and willing us on, and that gave me a real buzz. The game against Scotland was probably the best of my life because of the atmosphere.

Playing in the World Cup will be another step up, we all know that, but I'm not really nervous yet because I don't know what to expect. Going to Euro 96 was the same and I think that is a good thing. I don't really feel any greater pressure or greater excitement than for a normal game, but I know that, by the weekend, that will all change.

What I'm looking forward to most is playing against the best strikers in the world. If you are playing against the real top men, then you are so sharp mentally, right at the peak of your game. You know everything about them, how quick and tricky they can be and it is a real challenge to try

to contain them. In your mind, you are a yard sharper because you are thinking "this guy can do me at any time". There are players in this tournament who will try to play training-ground tricks on you, the sort of outrageous things most people wouldn't dare do in a game. Leonardo

tried one on me during Le Tourni last summer, but I managed to get a tackle in, and the same thing happened with Juninho at Wembley once. The only time I really got done was by Okocha, the Nigerian, when United were playing Fenerbahce.

I actually prefer playing against people like Ronaldo, Romario, Zola and Del Piero than against someone like Christophe Dugarry, who relies more on power than finesse. With players like Ronaldo and Del Piero, brilliant though they are, you can pit your wits against them and make sure they don't do anything during the game. It's a shame that Romario and Zola won't be here, but I still don't think you will see many long balls. It will be close, intricate stuff played in to quick, clever strikers, the type of attack I love to play against. Like the boss, I think we can go all the way this time. All our planning has been geared around seven games, around reaching the final and winning it. There is nobody that we need to be afraid of. I remember on the day of our semi-final against Germany in Euro 96 hearing that they had already made plans for a sightseeing tour of

London the next morning because they were so sure of winning. They had even booked a restaurant for the day after the final. At the time, I thought "the cheeky so-and-sos", but now I realise that sort of planning is just basic professionalism.

There are a lot of other teams who have a good chance, too. It would be too easy to go for Brazil and I actually think Argentina will go farther, though Spain are dark horses. It would be nice if we could win our group and avoid Argentina in the second round. It can be easier to play the real class sides later.

In the next few days, I'm sure there will be one team that sets the world alight with some startling performances and a couple of convincing wins. There is always one that starts like wildfire. There will be others who start badly and gradually come on strong.

I don't know which way we will do it, but we are as well-prepared as we could possibly be and, now that the tournament has started, that first game against Tunisia in Marseilles on Monday cannot come quickly enough.

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# Gough is likely to miss just one Test

By Alan Lee  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

DARREN GOUGH could be back in the England attack earlier than expected. The Yorkshire fast bowler, who broke his right index finger while batting in the first Test at Edgbaston, is thought likely to be fit for the third match of the series against South Africa, starting at Old Trafford on July 2.

It was originally feared that Gough would miss at least a month and be unavailable until the fourth Test at Trent Bridge. Yesterday, however, David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, said he was "reasonably confident" that Gough will be back for Manchester.

"As fractures go, it could have been a lot worse," Graveney said. "Darren should be able to bowl in the nets quite quickly, but in terms of a match you have to bear in mind the batting and fielding and there is no point in risking another blow that could set him back. We will certainly have to do with out him at Lord's next week, but the reports are more encouraging for Old Trafford."

Gough was hit by the first ball that he received after rejecting the chance to go off for bad light on the second evening at Ed-



Gough hopes rising

Edgbaston. However, Alec Stewart, the England captain, is convinced that the conditions had no bearing on the incident.

"The light had nothing to do with it," Stewart said. "It could have been the brightest day of the year and he would still have got hit. It was simply a ball that leapt at him."

Gough, who was playing his first Test since injuring a hamstring last July, broke down in tears when X-rays confirmed the fracture. His mood should now be lightened and England's need for him is such that he could be chosen for Old Trafford without a preliminary first-class game.

In the week after Lord's, Yorkshire have a NatWest Trophy first-round tie in Devon, but they do not play in the championship. Gough could theoretically prove his recovery in a three-day game against Cambridge University that starts at Headingley on June 27, the day on which the team for the third Test is chosen.

# CRICKET: ALL-ROUNDER'S QUICKFIRE INNINGS LEADS SOUTH AFRICANS TO VICTORY AT TRENT BRIDGE

## Pollock works off his frustration

By Pat Gibson

TRENT BRIDGE (Nottinghamshire won toss): The South Africans beat Nottinghamshire by 22 runs

IT WAS not quite in the same category as his Uncle Graeme's 125 against England in 1965 which is still fondly remembered as one of the finest innings played at Trent Bridge, but Shaun Pollock will have been happy enough with the 87 he thrashed off only 59 balls to set up the tourists' victory in this 50-over match.

For an all-rounder who has been hailed by the South Africans as the best thing since Sir Garfield Sobers, he hardly looked the part in the first Test at Edgbaston. He took three for 135 in 54 overs on a seamer's pitch and was caught at long leg for 16 at a time when his side was fighting to avoid the follow-on.

Yesterday gave him the chance to work off his frustration and he seized it avidly, hitting five sixes, which made the builders working on the new £7.2 million stand at the Radcliffe Road end happy that they were in a hard hat area, and four fours.

Whether it was enough to convince the Trent Bridge faithful that he really can be as good as Sobers - or even Clive Rice and Richard Hadlee - is debatable, but with Brian McMillan joining him in a fifth-wicket stand of 109 in 15 overs it was sufficient to hold off a spirited challenge from an under-strength Nottinghamshire side.

Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, saw this game as an opportunity for his batsmen to play a few shots away from the pressures of Test cricket and for the back-up players to flex their muscles.

There were one or two



Kallis, the South African batsman, executes a square cut on his way to a fifty against Nottinghamshire yesterday

interesting side issues, however, as they contemplate tinkering with the team for the second Test at Lord's, not least the position of Gerhardus Liebenberg, who does not really look the answer to their problem of finding an opening partner for Gary Kirsten.

One solution would be to recall Adam Bacher and while Liebenberg got out cheaply, caught at mid-off trying to hit Evans over the top, Bacher went boldly for his strokes, hitting 39 off 35 balls with two sixes and four fours before he was brilliantly caught by Read, the England A wicketkeeper.

Another answer would be to play McMillan as a batsman and promote Jacques Kallis to open. Kallis looks to be the quality player in the side, although he had problems with the left-arm spin of Hindson, who had him dropped at long-on when he had made 34 and then beat him in the flight and bowled him for 52.

McMillan simply enjoyed himself, as he always seems to do, scoring 62 and, with Pollock, taking heavy toll of a Nottinghamshire attack that struggled on a pitch that seemed to suit only the medium pace of Dowman, who bowled his ten overs for 21 runs and picked up the wickets of Bacher and Cronje into the bargain.

Robinson made 50, surviving a blow on the arm when he seemed to lose a slower ball from the erratic Hayward which turned into a bouncer, and Afrzaal made 74, but when Symcox snared them both, Nottinghamshire were beaten, despite Pollard's gallant unbeaten 55 off 56 balls.

### SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICANS	
A M Bacher c Hindson	39
G F J Liebenberg c Robinson b Evans	13
J H Kallis b Hindson	52
W J Cronje c Hindson b Dowman	15
B M McMillan b Francis	62
S M Pollock c Read b Hindson	37
M V Boucher not out	3
P J Symcox not out	3
Extras (D 1, N 7, W 6)	14
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	284
S Ewbury, M Hayward and M Neri did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-65, 3-94, 4-146, 5-225, 6-241, 7-241, 8-241, 9-241, 10-241, 11-241, 12-241	
BOWLING: Evans 9-0-72-1; Francis 8-0-45-2; Hayward 7-0-41-0; Dowman 10-1-21-2; Hindson 9-0-53-1; Afrzaal 7-0-44-0	
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	
M P Dowman b Symcox	10
U Aftzal c Hindson b Symcox	74
G E Welton b Pollock	0
T J Robinson c McMillan b Symcox	0
P R Read not out	56
J H Hindson not out	6
P J Francis b Ewbury	7
A G Wharf c McMillan b Ewbury	0
T C M Neri c Pollock b Kallis	5
K P Evans not out	2
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	129
Extras (N 6, W 9, NB 29)	44
Ewbury did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-18, 2-21, 3-150, 4-170, 5-187, 6-208, 7-218, 8-222, 9-222, 10-222, 11-222, 12-222	
BOWLING: Pollock 7-1-18-1; Ewbury 10-1-52-2; Symcox 10-0-43-4; Hayward 10-0-50-2; Neri 8-0-37-0; McMillan 4-0-28-1; Bacher 1-0-16-0	
Umpires: J H Harris and A A Jones	

The South African total of 284 for six was asking a lot of Nottinghamshire, who were without Johnson, their captain, Gallian, Archer and Tolley, who were all injured, and Strang, Oram and Bowen, who were rested, but they made a decent fist of it.

Dowman was bowled, heaving horribly across the line when Cronje slipped on Symcox for the fifth over and Pollock promptly ripped out Welton's off stump, but then Afrzaal and Robinson put on 129 in 25 overs.

Robinson made 50, surviving a blow on the arm when he seemed to lose a slower ball from the erratic Hayward which turned into a bouncer, and Afrzaal made 74, but when Symcox snared them both, Nottinghamshire were beaten, despite Pollard's gallant unbeaten 55 off 56 balls.

### BOXING

## Ingle will wait to challenge Hamed

By Sri Kumar Sen  
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

PAUL INGLE, the Scarborough featherweight, relies on a furious work-rate to give his challengers a boxing lesson that amounts, in the end, to an old-fashioned pasting. His quick body movements and fast hands can land triple punches that leave watchers and the opponent breathless.

It was not surprising, therefore, that Moussa Sangare, of France, a 39-year-old veteran, found the pressure too much and did not come out for the eleventh round of their International Boxing Federation inter-continental title bout at Hull on Tuesday.

Ingle, who holds the Commonwealth title and is a former unbeaten British champion, also has the rare gift of knowing his limitations. Although he overwhelmed Colin McMillan and Jon J Irwin, he admits that he is not ready to take on Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation champion.

He intends first to relieve Billy Hardy of his European championship in August or September and then challenge Radford Beasley, of the United States, who holds the International Boxing Organisation version of the world title.

Sieve Pollard, Ingle's trainer, said: "The Naz fight is a little bit down the road at the moment, but it will happen. We are praying Naz keeps on winning. He has a great punch, but it's no use if he can't land it."

### CYCLING

## Jimenez sets up team for clean sweep

JOSE Maria Jimenez, of Spain, led home a one-two-three of his Banesto team in the 164-kilometre third stage of the Critérium du Dauphiné Libéré on Mount Ventoux here yesterday and Armand de las Cuevas, his French team-mate, took the overall leader's yellow and blue jersey.

Jimenez, 27, who was eighth in last year's Tour de France, finished holding hands across the finishing line with De las Cuevas, who took the overall lead off Jens Voigt, of Germany, Miguel Angel Peña, of Spain, was third.

Jimenez, the Spanish national champion, made the decisive break with De las Cuevas at the start of the climb of Mont Ventoux and quickly opened up a gap.

"When I saw we had taken a big lead, I thought winning the stage and taking the leader's jersey was definitely on," De las Cuevas said. However, De las Cuevas rewarded Jimenez for all his work by allowing him to cross the line just ahead of him. "I attacked first to see how the rest would react and when I saw they were not looking too good I attacked again," Jimenez said.

## Harrogate rules for victorious Scotland

By Michael Austin

HARROGATE: Scotland beat Northamptonshire 1-0 in bowl-out

THE bowl-out, cricket's wet-weather tie-break, was devised and used for the first time worldwide at St George's Road, Harrogate, in 1985 by the umpires, John Holder and Don Oslar. It was just as well, for it was implemented there for the eighth time since then in the Costcutter Cup final yesterday, when Scotland lifted the trophy and £2,500 in prize-money.

The "Harrogate rules", unlike the subsequent Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy versions, involve bowling at a single stump, rather than at three. All 11 Northamptonshire players, including John Embury, the coach, missed with their first attempt, before Peter Steindl was the solitary Scot to hit the stump. Technically, Scotland won by an innings, because Northamptonshire had a second corporate failure and Scotland were not required to bowl again.

It completed a three-day tournament in which only 85 minutes play was possible. Scotland beat an international XI, including five Test players,

on the toss of a coin and Northamptonshire defeated Hampshire 2-1 on a second-day bowl-out.

No club is more resolute than Harrogate in its pledge to remain on the national cricket map, illustrated by an on-going determination to sustain this 23-year-old tournament, even without a Yorkshire county championship game as a centrepiece of the week's cricket.

Peter Clarke, in his fifteenth year as the festival chairman, said: "After losing the county match last season, we have kept this tournament going to prove that we have the organisation and expertise to host first-class matches."

Tom Kear, the president of the Scottish Cricket Union, saw George Salmond receive the trophy and said: "Cricket as we knew it in Scotland ended the day we qualified for next year's World Cup. We entered a new era."

Scotland have 53 days' play this summer, including games against Bangladesh and Australia A. Add the European Cup and Commonwealth Games at Kuala Lumpur and their learning curve will have had a sharp upward turn by the time of the World Cup.

## Cairns puts Sri Lanka in trouble

CHRIS CAIRNS, the New Zealand all-rounder, took four for 58 to put his team in a commanding position on the first day of the third and final Test in Colombo, as Sri Lanka struggled to 200 for eight.

Cairns became the ninth New Zealander to take 100 or more Test wickets and completed a unique father-son double. Lance Cairns took 130 wickets in 43 Tests for New Zealand between 1974 and 1985.

Cairns, who had dismissed Sanath Jayasuriya, the opener, in the rain-curtailed first session, also sent back Mahela Jayawardene and took the prized wicket of Aravinda de Silva.

The home side lost Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, who was run out at the non-striker's end as he backed up too far, and Ataputu, who top-edged Paul Wiseman, the off-spinner, to Daniel Vettori.

Hashan Tilakaratne, who scored 43, and Romesh Kaluwitharana put on 54 before Craig McMillan dismissed both in the second hour. Cairns returned later with the second new ball to claim Kumar Dharmasena's wicket.

Scoreboard, page 52

## Durham are lording it

By Michael Henderson

THE Britannic Assurance county championship table has a curious look about it at the moment, as though the world had suddenly been stood on its head. Leading the pursuit of Surrey, the best-equipped side in the land and starting to prove it by winning four of their first six matches, are Sussex, Durham and Derbyshire, not teams that anybody imagined would be barking and wagging their tails like top dogs at any stage of the summer.

Hats off to all of them, particularly Durham, who boast the country's leading wicket-taker, in Melvyn Betts, and who may finally have found their first-class feet. They achieved their first win at Lord's last week, another landmark, and will not feel terrified that Northamptonshire are the visitors to the Riverside today.

John Morris is still missing with an injured calf, but it is not the high-profile imports who are breathing life into the youngest county. Men like Betts, Paul Collingwood and Stephen Harrison are making names for themselves. After so many stale years, there appears to be a fresh bloom about their cricket.

Surrey go to Chelmsford, licking their wounds after losing a Benson and Hedges Cup semi-final full of runs at

Leicester. Essex, on the other hand, won their semi-final at Headingley handsomely, yet are rooted to the bottom of the championship table, without a win to their name. They may give a game today to Graham Napier, an 18-year-old all-rounder.

Matt Windows, who has made hundreds in each of the past two championship matches, searches for a third against Warwickshire, who still omit Dominic Ostler even though Andy Moles will be out of action for a further month.

Yorkshire, who have lost matches at Northampton and Bristol in an abject manner, welcome back an old friend when Peter Hartley returns to Headingley as a Hampshire bowler. Hartley was released on financial grounds, against the judgment of David Byas, the club captain, and, in Darren Gough's absence through injury, Yorkshire may have cause to regret his departure.

Craig White is also missing, with a back spasm that requires a hospital X-ray, and there is a place for Matthew Wood in place of Bradley Parker. Hampshire may give a first game of the season to Derek Kenway, a batsman, who turns 20 tomorrow.

Somerset go to Old Trafford in good form, with nobody in much better nick than Matthew Bulbeck, 18, their left-arm medium-fast bowler, who has taken 13 wickets in his first two championship matches. They will face a Lancashire side for whom Wasim Akram, the captain, remains an uncertain starter, though John Crawley has overcome a stomach bug.

Glamorgan hope that Waqaar Younis has recovered from an elbow injury for the game against Worcestershire, who restore Philip Weston to the top of their order now that he is over a case of tonsillitis. Leicestershire, at home to Kent, who they beat in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final, recall Matthew Brimston in place of Dominic Williamson.

### TABLE

	P	W	L	D	B	BI	Pts
Surrey (8)	6	4	1	1	20	19	106
Sussex (16)	6	3	1	2	12	23	89
Durham (17)	6	3	2	1	11	23	85
Derbyshire (18)	6	2	2	2	10	20	65
Gloucestershire (19)	5	2	2	1	9	20	64
Hampshire (4)	5	2	2	2	12	14	64
Leics (10)	5	2	2	1	9	18	64
Yorkshire (6)	5	2	2	1	9	18	62
Warwickshire (12)	5	2	2	1	9	15	59
Worce (13)	5	1	3	1	13	13	57
Notts (15)	5	1	3	2	11	21	50
Glamorgan (1)	5	1	2	2	10	18	50
Northants (15)	5	1	3	1	9	14	49
Lancashire (11)	5	1	3	1	9	14	48
Warwickshire (4)	5	1	3	1	7	18	44
Hampshire (14)	4	1	2	1	11	11	59
Essex (8)	5	0	3	2	8	18	32

(Last year's positions in brackets)

## Malcolm retains Test ambitions

DEVON MALCOLM, who feels his native Jamaica will fare exceptionally well in the World Cup, still has sporting ambitions of his own. "I have something to prove against South Africa," he said yesterday. "The biggest disappointment in my life was not being given a chance there on England's 1995-96 tour and I am bowling well enough to be included in the side for the second Test at Lord's."

Malcolm is inevitably critical of Raymond Illingworth, the manager on that tour, in his autobiography *You Guys are History* (Collins/Willow £16.99), which was published yesterday. "Everyone knows he has done wrong. He put a negative mark on myself - I was going from meeting President Nelson Mandela to being hammered by Ray for no reason at all. But I am not one for bitter recrimination," he said at the launch party at The Dorchester.

"It is not true that I was distracted from playing for England by my relationship with the President. There was probably a massive generation gap between Ray, Peter Lever and John Edrich, the coaches, and myself."

If Malcolm is picked for England this summer, he will be bowling with Dominic Cork, whom he also criticises in his book. "I say that he needed to grow up and be a bit



more mature and the signs are that he is. His ability has not been in question. But I have no regrets at leaving Derbyshire and not taking the new ball with him."

### Grace notes

Celebrations of the 150th anniversary of the birth of W.G. Grace will soon be in full swing. On the eve, July 17, a special service will be held at St George's, Beckenham, close to where he is buried. An exhibition is to be staged next month by Gloucestershire and the Bristol City Museum, while a Victorian-style match will be played at Downend, Bristol, his birthplace, on July 18.

Steve Watkin, the Glamorgan bowler, was asked in a restaurant last week if he ate snails. "No," he said. "Would he like some escargots?" "I'll have some of them."

### Colour clash

Marlow CC have been prevented from wearing coloured clothing by the Thames Valley League's management committee. They wanted to sport shirts in the club colours of gold and blue from the chest upwards as a condition of sponsorship secured from a local firm, Xerotec. They are worried that they may now have to pay back the £2,500.

"One applauds them for endeavouring to find sponsorship, but we prefer all teams to wear the traditional white," Neil Doody, the league chairman, said. Marlow will continue to wear their new shirts in friendly and cup matches. Alan Tierney, the honorary secretary, said: "We are trying to move forward with the times and these shirts do nothing to harm or offend the traditions of the game. The colours are quite subtle, actually."

### Ayr refuge

Ayr CC are waiting to hear whether Andy Goram will play for them this summer. Goram was registered at the start of the season and has time on his hands after pulling out of the Scotland World Cup squad after newspaper allegations about his private life. Kevin Boyd, the Ayr secretary, said: "If he turns up, he can

play, but I suspect he has other things on his mind at the moment." Goram is a handy all-rounder who played for Scotland against Australia nine years ago.

### Ducks galore

Talbot Radcliffe, who celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of his privately-owned ground in Boderden, Anglesey in 1997, has died at the age of 90. When MCC took a team to Boderden to mark the occasion last year, Radcliffe ordered his gamekeeper to catch 11 ducks and hang them on the players' pegs. He was presented with an England blazer by David Lloyd during a lunch interval lasting 75 minutes.

### Bottle bank

A special beer has been produced by the Teme Valley Brewery to aid Phil Newport's benefit fund. Newport's Beneficial Brew is limited to 500 numbered bottles, although Father Times received a dirty look from a barmaid when he began to imbibe from No 94 after a day's play at New Road.

The Worcestershire members are being encouraged to buy the bottles unopened as collectibles at £2 each.

FATHER TIMES

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### TODAY'S FIXTURES

**CRICKET**

Britannic Assurance county championship  
11.0, first day of four 104 overs minimum

CHELSEA: Essex v Surrey  
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Worcestershire  
OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Somerset  
HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire v Hampshire  
12.0, first day of four 104 overs minimum

BRISTOL: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire  
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Kent  
13.30, first day of four 104 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Northamptonshire

University match  
11.30, second day of three  
FERRISBURGH: Cambridge University v Derbyshire

**SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP:** Third day of four, Chesterfield: Derbyshire v Gloucestershire, Southgate: Middlesex v Essex, Second day of three, Northern CC: Lancashire v Durham, Campbell Park, Milton Keynes: Northamptonshire v Durham, Horsham: Sussex v Yorkshire, Halewood: Worcestershire v Glamorgan.

**AON TROPHY (one day):** Leamington: Warwickshire v Leicestershire

**MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP:** Final day of two, Suffolk: Walsden: Cambridgeshire v Suffolk, Stone: Staffordshire v Norfolk

**OTHER SPORT**

**EQUESTRIANISM:** Bramham three-day event

**GOLF:** Compaq European Grand Prix (at Staley Hall)

**SPEEDWAY:** Elite League: Swindon v Poole (7.30) Premier League: Cup Stretford v Stoke (7.45)

**TENNIS:** Stella Arnois championship (at Queen's Club), DFS Classic (at Edgbaston)



Puberty: no fairground ride for today's youth

If you relish a bit of excitement from your TV viewing, but couldn't give a hoot whether Brazil beat Scotland or Morocco beat Norway yesterday, you could have joined the new regular Wednesday night competition to try to guess which metaphor Professor Robert Winston will have dreamt up to simplify the science in the latest episode of The Human Body (BBC1). Full marks if you guessed that last night's subject, Raging Teens, would be portrayed by Winston as "the rollercoaster ride of puberty" as we watched one of Britain's leading fertility experts clinging on to Blackpool Pleasure Beach's "Big One" for a journey that threatened to induce in him a spectacular bodily function that wasn't on the directors' shooting script.

Winston might convey the trauma of your travelling through your teens by using the phrase "the Virgin West Coast Line of puberty" (erratic, grubby, reliant on fast food for sustenance) or "the Tory Party of puberty" (all boastful talk, but no actual opportunity to do anything about it for a few years yet). What a traumatic As one anxious teenager told us, "I go bolshie, you get your periods, go to the gym and get your hair, and you get breasts. I just don't want it to happen really!" And apparently it's even worse for girls.

Winston even carried off the difficult trick of making a swarm of 14-year-olds sound interesting. Particularly intriguing was the street-smart Californian boy who confessed that "when I had my first erection, I didn't know what was happening". Really? It paints an arresting image of an anxious youth yelling to his friends, in the schoolyard, "Whoah, stand back guys! I dunno how big this thing is gonna get!"

This series is maturing nicely in tandem with its weekly progress through the seven ages of man. Most of the camerawork is stunning (which-ever camera it is they use to film down the inside of a hair-thin sperm duct must make even those kinky Canal Zone things look bulky), but some is maybe a little too stunning: a close-up of an adolescent's zit being squeezed? Oh, please! And while it might have seemed grown-up to show an erect willy on TV, why not show it as it is in real life rather than filming it with a heat-sensitive camera, which showed it glowing alarmingly like a mutant body part from Chernobyl hospital? Also, Winston should have acknowledged that puberty is not all doom. In some ways it is a horrible age in one's development.

some 14-year-old girls watching the same episode. Hear that, hiss? That's because the girls have just spotted Nurse Hadaway.

Working on the sound dramatic principle that you should never arbitrarily toss a crisis into the plot of ER when you can toss in six more at the same time, last night's finale to the current series ended with all the staff either biting at each other's throats or else slicing open a patient's throat for an emergency tracheotomy. Mark's upset that Doug broke the rules over Joshua's doctor. Dr Weaver's mad because she has to apply for her own job. Corday's fuming because Romano is withdrawing her sponsorship. Benton's angry because Corday is behaving dumbly. And just when you thought you might crack at least one of these crises, a suicide-prone nutter drives into the hospital with the body of his wife and two children which he has just riddled with

bullets - from which cliff we must hang until the new series arrives.



Joe Joseph

being the last stage at which you can be blissfully unaware that you might one day grow into, say, Ainsley Harriot.

Of course, a simpler way of showing how puberty affects girls might have been to film a bunch of eight-year-olds watching George Clooney's Dr Ross carrying out his emergency detox on the methadone-addicted baby Joshua in ER (Channel 4), and then filming

hungry for a slice of the World Cup audience, Leviathan (BBC2) hired Nicky Campbell to explain why the Scots supporters hate the English so much. It can mostly be traced back to the brutal treatment suffered by "Braveheart" William Wallace at the hands of Edward I, who apparently resented the fact that Mel Gibson, being a big star, could lay his hands on World Cup tickets and he couldn't.

Even Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray succumbed to football mania, devoting The Italian Kitchen (Channel 4) to kebabs in honour of Gazza (monkfish and scallops skewered onto a twig of rosemary, but no pita bread), as well as cooking that traditional England soccer supporter's favourite of fish and chips - which turned out to be identical to the polystyrene-

6.00am Business Breakfast (24879)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (11053)
9.00 A Date with Fate (1190546)
9.20 Kilroy (1190362)
10.00 The General (7492)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (14781)
11.00 News (12443091)
11.05 The Really Useful Show Ruth Langford and Tony Morris present coverage of Gardeners' World Live from Birmingham (1104701)
12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (779086)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (1) (9002492)
12.35 Wipeout Bob Monkhouse hosts the game show (5367411)
1.00 One O'Clock News (1) and weather (14140)
1.30 Regional News (1) (9751012)
1.40 The Weather Show Stories and reports relating to the current British climate (7681237)
1.45 Neighbours Ben wants to get to know his biological father, while Sarah reluctantly goes on a blind date set up by Darren and Libby (11492275)

2.10 Through the Keyhole (2390961)
2.40 International Tennis Action from the fourth day of the Stella Artois Championships at Queen's (6073695)
3.30 Playdays (1) (8501237) 3.50 The Littlest Pet Shop (611053) 4.00 Fievel's American Adventure (3585568) 4.25 Air Wym (226492) 4.40 Goosebumps (22) (11217089)
5.00 Newsround (1) (2650445)
5.10 Record Breakers The first show featuring speed-skiing, the cast of Baywatch and the world's fastest dogs (1) (1462833)
5.35 Neighbours (1) (1463682)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (1) and weather (188)
6.30 Regional News (1) (140)
7.00 Aussie's Sporting Bloomers Collection of track and field games from television coverage of sport (1) (13362)
7.30 World Cup 96: Cameron v Austria (Kick-off 8.00pm). Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage from Toulouse. Commentary by John Motson and David Pleat, with analysis from Alan Hansen and David Ginola (1) (128789)

10.00 News (1) regional news and weather (39898)
10.30 Smith and Jones Outlandish comedy from Mel and Griff (1) (48546)
11.00 Question Time A Newcastle audience seek answers from MPs John Redwood and Jack Cunningham, Anne-Marie Huby, executive director of Medicines for Frontiers and the journalist Leanda De Lisle, in a debate hosted by David Dimbleby (26430)
12.05am Man of the West (1958) with Gary Cooper and Lee J. Cobb. A criminal turns over a new leaf and finds a way to protect himself and innocent citizens from his gun-slinging former colleagues. Directed by Anthony Mann (181015)
1.40 Weather (731096)
1.45 BBC News 24

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes The numbers after each programme are for VIDEO Plus+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ code for the relevant programme into your video recorder for easy taping.

6.10am Restoring the Balance (700140)
6.35 Control in Reproduction (2040256)
7.00 Teletubbies (1) (2117701) 7.25 The Flintstones (2103508) 7.50 Blue Peter (1) (1) (2834189) 8.15 Funky Phantom (1) (7320633) 8.35 Hairy Jerry (1) (7776343) 8.45 The Record (14486508)
9.10 Go for It! (414343) 9.25 Job Bank (4588850) 9.35 Job Bank (8265008) 9.45 Come Outside (827072) 10.00 Teletubbies (24102) 10.30 Storytime (332348) 10.45 Teaching Today (384072) 11.15 Zig Zag (1573701) 11.25 Landmarks (1) (762633) 11.55 Lifeschool (436252) 12.30pm Working Lunch (55234)
1.00 The Family Ness (25742324) 1.05 Tales of the Tooth Fairies (25741695) 1.10 Alias Smith and Jones (1090072)
2.00 International Tennis Action from day four of the Stella Artois Championships at the Queen's Club in London (488725)
2.40 Westminster (1) (255275) 3.25 News (1) (9211275)
3.30 International Tennis Further action from Queen's (405237) 3.50 Gardeners' World Live From the National Flower and Garden Show at Birmingham's NEC, where Nick Owen checks out the latest designs (430)
6.30 Beating Retreat Live The Royal Artillery join the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery on Horse Guards' Parade for a spectacular military display (1) (8031527)
7.40 Out and About Diane-Louise Jordan and Mike Embley take part in motor-racing at Brands Hatch and kite-flying near Maldivone (38072) WALES: All The High Moments
8.10 The Car's the Star (1) (98546)
8.30 Consumer Property series with Quentin Wilson (1) (7324) WALES: On the House
9.00 To Catch a Killer (2/2) Kozenczak consults a psychic as pressure mounts from community leaders and his superiors to catch the killer. Final part of the chilling true-life drama chronicling the capture of American serial killer John Wayne Gacy. Starring Brian Dennehy and Michael Riley (1) (4072)
10.30 Newsnight (1) (976633)

11.15 Made in Manchester Bev's dream apartment nears completion, while Lubina goes on holiday to Pakistan (801324)
11.45 Gogs (1) (1) (720807)
12.30am Learning Zone: The Struggle for Democracy (72229)
1.00 The Computer Industry (22560) 1.30 The Industry of Culture (37890) 2.00 Basic Education (10833) 4.00 Film Education (98164) 4.30 Documenting D-Day (10725) 5.00 Literacy Hour 2 (3223980)

1.30 SPX (1) (851183)
1.52 Planet (1) (9614270)
2.25 Not Fade Away (2224522)
3.20 The Chart Show (1) (4018693)
4.15 Vanessa (1) (1) (8663218)
4.50 ITV Nightseason (9642837)
5.00 News (27454)

8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Alastair Stewart with more examples of perilous driving (1) (1) (3985)
9.00 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Going Wrong Guy's actions, which he begins to regret, result in tragedy (1) (6782)
10.00 News (1) and weather (24966)
10.30 Regional News (1) (277445)
10.40 World Cup 96 - Euroset Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of the Group B games. Cameron v Austria and Italy v Chile (197879)
11.40 The Warehouse Miles Crawford hosts a showcase for up-and-coming entertainers (187343)
12.10am Public Morals Pugs is robbed by a young boy (8466164)
12.40 The Jerry Springer Show: I'm Pregnant by a Transsexual (1) (898815)

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6.00am GMTV (278614)
9.25 This Morning (4591324)
9.30 Vanessa (1055072)
10.10 This Morning (39025966)
12.15 pm Regional News (1) and weather (1216411)
12.30 News (1) and weather (42850)
1.00 Shortland Street Rebecca has a change of heart (16508)
1.30 Home and Away Winnie damages Travis's car (1) (41121)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4865053)
2.45 Waffle (1) (83614)
3.15 News (1) (9219817) 3.20 Regional News (1) (9209430)
3.25 Potamus Park (1) (929053) 3.35 The Slow Norris (1) (8151256) 3.45 Sooty and Co (1) (1) (658988)
4.15 World Cup 96 Live: Italy v Chile Bob Wilson and Barry Venison present coverage of the Group B match from Bordeaux (1) (75160140)
NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration
6.30 News (1) and weather (231053)
6.50 Regional News (1) (400256)
7.00 Emmerdale Steve's first day in his new job is a tough one, and Tara solves the Dingles' housing problems (1) (8430)
7.30 WALES: Inquisition (492)
7.35 The Public Morals: Out Judy Finnigan offers consumer advice on car servicing; Levi jeans; and Britain's best-selling curry: chicken tikka masala (492)
8.00 The Bill Harker rushes to help a woman in danger but soon begins to wish he hadn't (1) (4850)

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3.20 The Chart Show (1) (4018693)
4.15 Vanessa (1) (1) (8663218)
4.50 ITV Nightseason (9642837)
5.00 News (27454)

12.30am Learning Zone: The Struggle for Democracy (72229)
1.00 The Computer Industry (22560) 1.30 The Industry of Culture (37890) 2.00 Basic Education (10833) 4.00 Film Education (98164) 4.30 Documenting D-Day (10725) 5.00 Literacy Hour 2 (3223980)

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6.00am GMTV (278614)
9.25 This Morning (4591324)
9.30 Vanessa (1055072)
10.10 This Morning (39025966)
12.15 pm Regional News (1) and weather (1216411)
12.30 News (1) and weather (42850)
1.00 Shortland Street Rebecca has a change of heart (16508)
1.30 Home and Away Winnie damages Travis's car (1) (41121)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4865053)
2.45 Waffle (1) (83614)
3.15 News (1) (9219817) 3.20 Regional News (1) (9209430)
3.25 Potamus Park (1) (929053) 3.35 The Slow Norris (1) (8151256) 3.45 Sooty and Co (1) (1) (658988)
4.15 World Cup 96 Live: Italy v Chile Bob Wilson and Barry Venison present coverage of the Group B match from Bordeaux (1) (75160140)
NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration
6.30 News (1) and weather (231053)
6.50 Regional News (1) (400256)
7.00 Emmerdale Steve's first day in his new job is a tough one, and Tara solves the Dingles' housing problems (1) (8430)
7.30 WALES: Inquisition (492)
7.35 The Public Morals: Out Judy Finnigan offers consumer advice on car servicing; Levi jeans; and Britain's best-selling curry: chicken tikka masala (492)
8.00 The Bill Harker rushes to help a woman in danger but soon begins to wish he hadn't (1) (4850)

8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Alastair Stewart with more examples of perilous driving (1) (1) (3985)
9.00 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: Going Wrong Guy's actions, which he begins to regret, result in tragedy (1) (6782)
10.00 News (1) and weather (24966)
10.30 Regional News (1) (277445)
10.40 World Cup 96 - Euroset Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of the Group B games. Cameron v Austria and Italy v Chile (197879)
11.40 The Warehouse Miles Crawford hosts a showcase for up-and-coming entertainers (187343)
12.10am Public Morals Pugs is robbed by a young boy (8466164)
12.40 The Jerry Springer Show: I'm Pregnant by a Transsexual (1) (898815)

1.30 SPX (1) (851183)
1.52 Planet (1) (9614270)
2.25 Not Fade Away (2224522)
3.20 The Chart Show (1) (4018693)
4.15 Vanessa (1) (1) (8663218)
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As HTV West except:
1.00pm A Country Practice (16508)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5746904)
11.40 Dharma and Greg (867256)
12.10am Friday Night Fever (317821)
12.45 The Jerry Springer Show (8600676)
1.30 Not Fade Away (61831)
2.30 Planet Rock Profiles (13473)
3.00 Box Office America (57974454)
3.25 We Can Work It Out (5799358)
3.50 Best of British Motor Sport (86357763)
4.20 Central Jobfinder '98 (3153638)
5.20 Asian Eye (5099270)

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (1216411)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9651148)
1.00 Emmerdale (16508)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (41121)
2.00-2.45 Home and Away (4865053)
6.50-7.00 Westcountry Live (400256)
11.45 Street Legal (773184)

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Meridian News and Weather (1216411)
6.50-7.00 Meridian Tonight (400256)
11.40 Anatomy of Disaster (733140)
5.00am FreeScreen (84812)

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (5051184)
1.00-1.30 Hope and Gloria (16508)
6.29-6.30 Anglia Air Watch (3630031)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (266275)
11.40 Midnight Caller (733140)

Starts: 7.00am The Big Breakfast (37091)
9.00 History in Action (1183256)
9.20 Geographical Eye (1163492)
9.40 Equinox (5053188)
10.30 Raw Talent (7061492)
10.50 Express (8761817)
11.00 Technology for Today (8275)
11.30 Powerhouse (9904)
12.00pm Ricki Lake (21879)
12.30 Sesame Street (40492)
1.00 Slit Meithrin (88250)
1.30 FILM: Storm Over the Nile (64879)
3.30 A Splash of Colour (614)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (121)
4.40 Countdown (633)
5.00 5 Pump (3508)
5.30 Pet Rescue (985)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (100459)
6.10 Heno (784031)
7.25 Cystawdych I Gantwrion Ieuanic Cymreig with Nicola Helyman, Kathryn Turpin, Wynne Evans, David Kempster and Anthony Stuan Lloyd (7834527)
8.30 Newyddion (1527)
9.00 Dawson's Creek (4324)
10.00 FILM: Circle of Friends (300508)
11.55 TV Ofal (854782)
12.55am Michael Hayes (5230251)
1.20 Dispatches (1428639)
2.10 Discos (9692657)

As HTV West except:
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1.00-1.30 Hope and Gloria (16508)
6.29-6.30 Anglia Air Watch (3630031)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (266275)
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6.00am Sesame Street (1) (40817)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (1) (37091)
8.00 Schools: History in Action (1183256)
9.20 Geographical Eye (1163492) 9.40 Equinox (5053188) 10.30 Raw Talent (8762188) 10.50 Express (8761817) 11.00 Technology for Today (8275)
11.30 Powerhouse (9904) 12.00 Sesame Street (21879)
12.30pm Light Lunch with Murray Walker, Jim Rosenthal, Tamara Beckwith, A.A. Gill and Nicola Forby (81904)
1.30 The Wrong Brothers (76801091)
1.35 Carrington VC (1954) David Niven plays an army officer who defends himself when he is court-martialed for taking money. With Margaret Leighton. Directed by Anthony Asquith (54112237)
3.30 A Splash of Colour The Stour Valley and Constable Country (634) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (121) 4.30 Countdown (1) (5931140) 4.56 Ricki Lake: Ricki, Woman Are For Sport (1) (7703121)
5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (985)
6.00 Roseanne (1) (1) (868)
6.30 Hollyoaks (1) (850)
7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (513985)
7.50 The Windrush Years Len Dyke came to Britain in 1955 in response to Winston Churchill's rousing speech. He went on to form businesses that were turning over millions a year supplying records, cosmetics and cheap flights to the black community (1) (72275)

8.00 Celebrity Countdown with Richard Whitley, Carol Vorderman, Lord Steel and Loyd Grossman (1) (2492)
8.30 Real Gardens Revisiting some of the gardens from the series (1) (1527)

9.00 Circle of Friends (1994) See Film Choice. Touching tale about three Irish villagers who are separated, then reunited as students at the University of Dublin. With Minnie Driver, Chris O'Donnell and Alan Cumming. Filmmaker director (73054958)
10.55 The Field (1990) See Film Choice. Richard Harris, Frances Tomelty and Tom Berenger star in this tale about a family who have worked an Irish field for generations. Jim Sheridan directs (1) (5350968)
1.00am Michael Hayes (1) (4341367)
1.55 Roman Scandals (1933, b/w) Vintage Goldenwyn musical with Eddie Cantor, Ruth Etting and Gloria Stuart. Directed by Frank Tuttle (157560)
3.35 Whoopie (1930, b/w) with Eddie Cantor, Eleanor Hoot and Paul Gregory. Musical based on Ziegfeld's Broadway show. Directed by Thornton Freeland (326454)
5.15 Heaven, Hell and Suburbia (1) (1) (8933744)

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CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder can be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

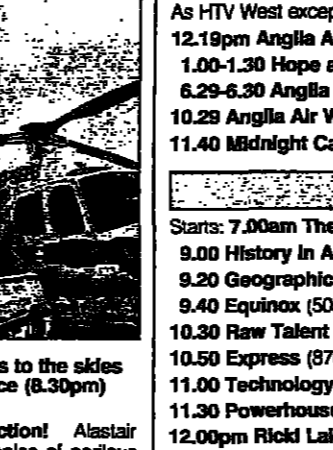
6.00am 5 News and Sport (8345904)
7.00 WorldWide (1) (1) (8528275) 7.30 Milkshake! (2521492) 7.35 The Wind in the Willows (2521430) 8.00 Hawkzoo (1) (4654695) 8.30 Dappledown Farm (1) (4653966)
9.00 Natural Tales (1) (1) (4877546) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (4106411) 10.20 Sunset Beach (1) (8023169) 11.10 Lezca (8044017)
12.05 News at Noon (1) (4857782) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (1) (4561955) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (1) (8527548) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (4560963) 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (951324) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (7854512)
3.30 Frontier Gap (1945) with Yvonne de Carlo and Rod Cameron. Comic western about the stormy relationship between a saloon owner and a gunman. Directed by Charles Lamont (1915646)
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Racism - The Lessons We've Learned (3126053)
6.00 100 Per Cent (9022053)
6.30 Family Affairs Eddie causes a fight at the C&A after school; Jack attempts to kiss Lisa; Lisa calls up an escort girl (1) (5327445)
7.00 5 News (1) (2419463)

7.30 Realm of the Polar Bear: Polar Bear Express (1/6) See Critic's Choice. Wildlife documentary (1) (9927408)
8.00 The Thorn Birds: The Missing Years (2/2) The concluding part of the saga (1) (55550527)
9.45 Asian Connection: Midnight Orchid (1995, TVM) with John Water. A tale of murder, sex, money power and political corruption in Asia (7875121)
11.35 Not the Jack Docherty Show Chat and comedy (6748850)
12.15 am Hotline: The Homecoming New soap opera about a baller dancer who returns to her hometown after ten years to tie up family affairs. With Michelle Clunie (4085676)
12.50 Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Shelley Webb and Kevin Day. Includes action from the American Major League soccer game between LA Galaxy and Dallas Burn (5043218)
1.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8400015)
5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (6255251)

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Alastair Stewart takes to the slides with the traffic police (8.30pm)



Minnie Driver and Chris O'Donnell are reunited in Dublin (9.00pm)

